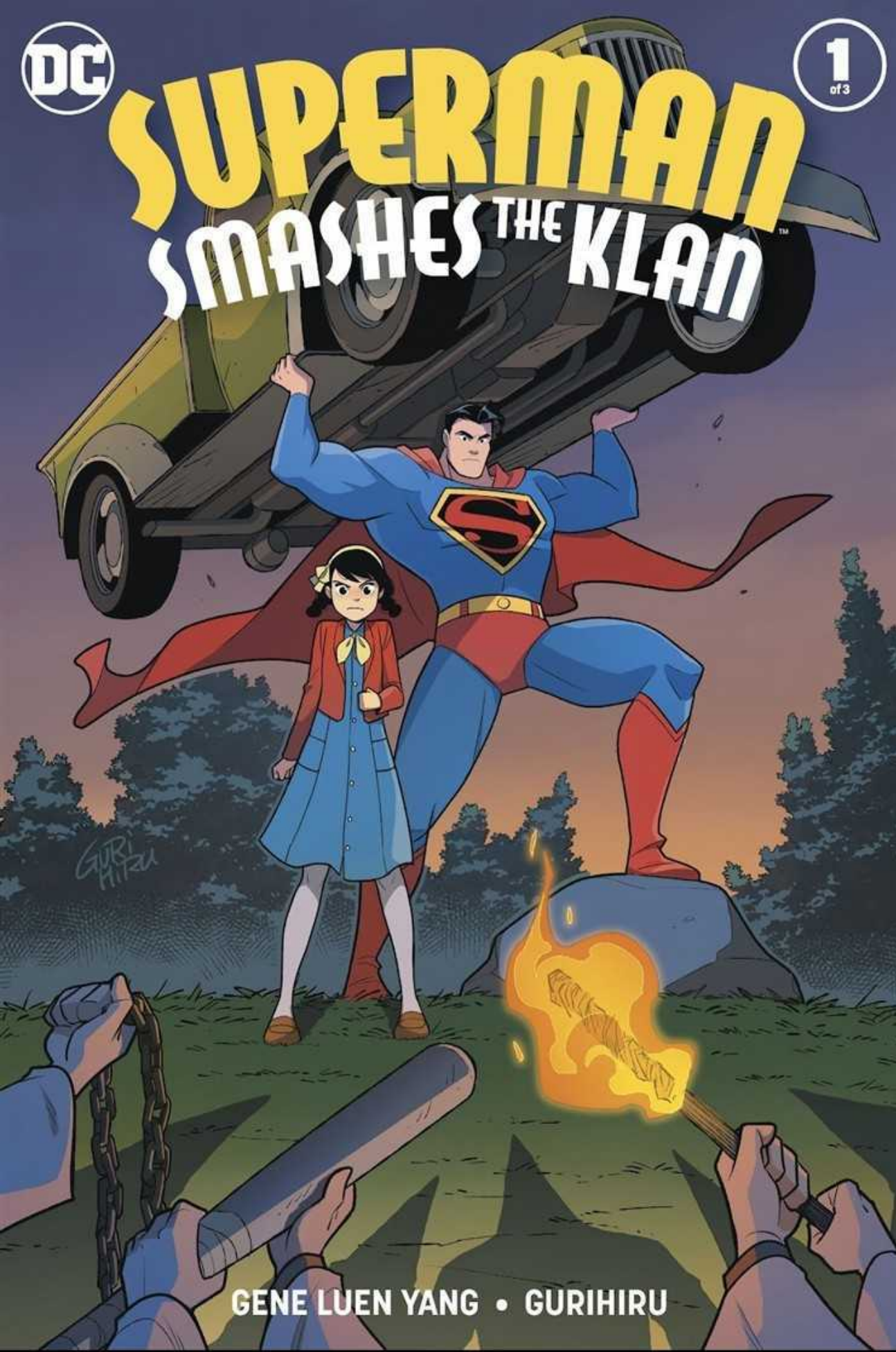
DC
1 of 3
SUPERMAN
SMASHES THE KLAN
GURIHIRU
GENE LUEN YANG • GURIHIRU

SUPERMAN SMASHES THE KLAN

PART ONE

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SUPERMAN SMASHES THE KLAN PART ONE

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THE METROPOLIS DAM. 1946.
TREMBLE, AMERICAN SCUM!
TREMBLE BEFORE THE MIGHT OF THE ATOM MAN, AVENGER OF THE MASTER RACE!
BKAM!
EXCUSE ME, MR. ATOM MAN? LOIS LANE, DAILY PLANET. THIS IS MY ASSOCIATE JIMMY OLSEN.
HIYA!
I'VE GOT A FEW QUESTIONS FOR YOU, IF YOU DON'T MIND.
B-BUT THE ATOM MAN DOES MIND! THE ATOM MAN MINDS VERY MUCH!
GREAT. FIRST QUESTION: WHAT ARE YOU HOPING TO ACCOMPLISH BY BUSTING A HOLE IN THE METROPOLIS DAM?
REVENGE! YOU AMERICAN SCUM HUMILIATED THE MASTER RACE! NOW, THE ATOM MAN WILL—
REVENGE. GOT IT. SECOND QUESTION: HAVE YOU ACTUALLY THOUGHT THIS THROUGH?
I GUESS WHAT I'M REALLY ASKING IS—
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD OF METROPOLIS' MOST FAMOUS CITIZEN?
SNAP!
GOOD OL' LOIS AND JIMMY—

– SO FEARLESS. HONEST. I FIND THEM INSPIRING.
GASP!
THE SUPERMAN
OOF!
POW!
NO "THE." THE "THE" IS A $5 PRETENTIOUS. DON'T YOU THINK?
HEYYY! SO YOU HAVE HEARD OF HIM.
SIGH
"IT'S JUST "SUPERMAN," PLEASE.
ATOM MAN DOES NOT FEAR THE SO-CALLED SUPER-STRENGTH OF THE SUPERMAN!
YOU SEE, THIS MASTERFULLY ENGINEERED DEVICE PUMPS SUPER-SUPER-STRENGTH INTO THE ATOM MAN'S HEART!

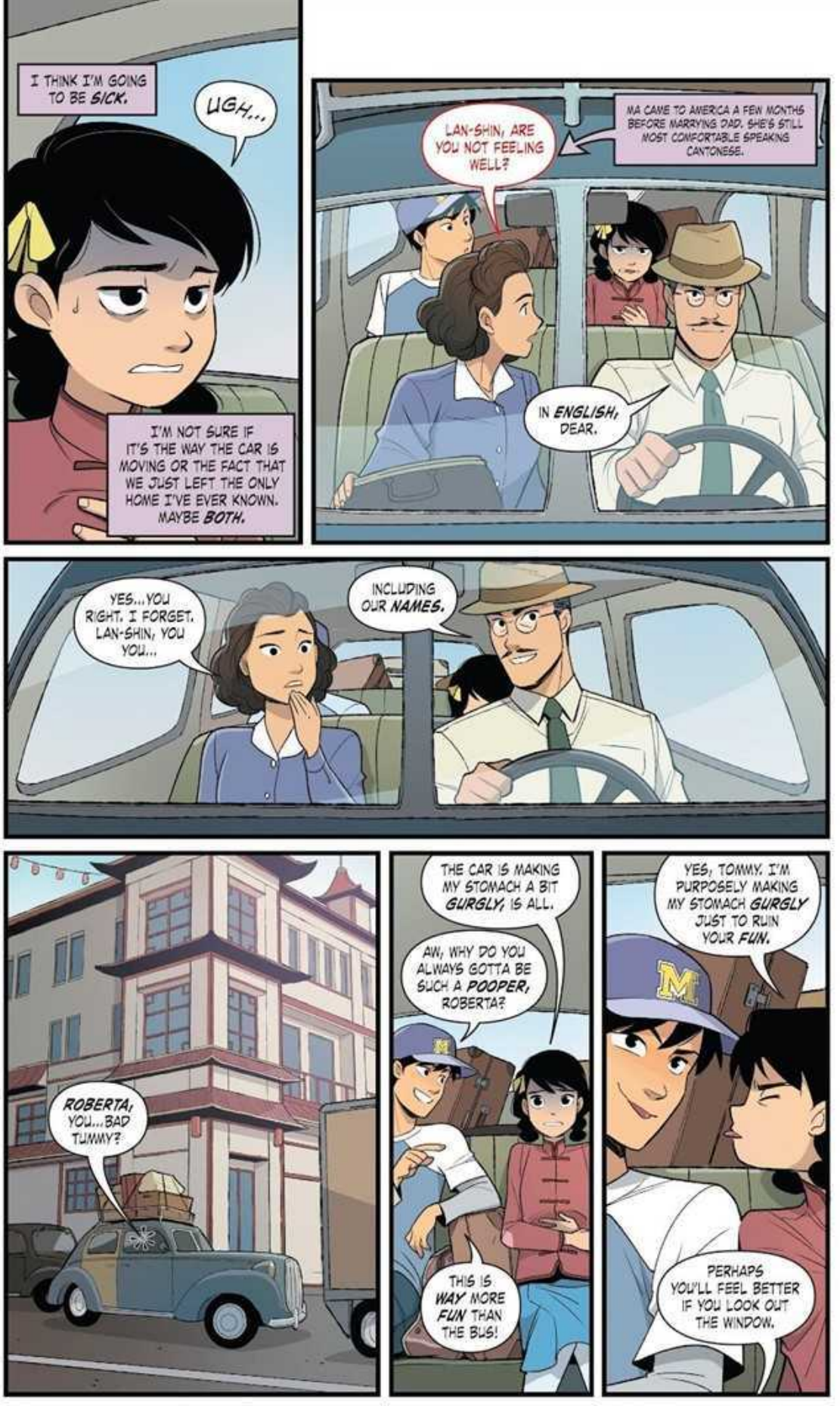
NAZI SCIENCE MADE THE ATOM MAN VERY MUCH STRONGER THAN THE SUPERMAN! HA HA!
POW!
HM. IMPRESSIVE RIGHT HOOK.
BUT "VERY MUCH STRONGER"...
BAM!
BAM!
BAM!
IS PUSHING IT...
DON'T YOU THINK?
NGH...
THE ATOM MAN PROMISES THAT WHEN THE ATOM MAN NEXT RETURNS—
CLICK!
—THE SUPERMAN SHALL TREMBLE BEFORE THE MIGHT OF THE ATOM MAN!
FWOOOM!
LEAP, SUPERMAN, LEAP! HE'S GETTING AWAY!
HE'S NOT GONNA LEAP. HE'S GONNA KNOCK HIM OUT OF THE SKY.

WHY WAIT, ATOM MAN?!
WHY NOT MAKE ME TREMBLE RIGHT NOW?!
KRUNK!
MS. LANE, HOW'D YOU KNOW—?
IT'S MY JOB TO KNOW. SUPERMAN'S FASTER THAN A SPEEDING BULLET—
KRASH!
"—MORE POWERFUL THAN A LOCOMOTIVE; ABLE TO LEAP TALL BUILDINGS IN A SINGLE BOUND!"
I'VE READ YOUR ARTICLE MANY, MANY TIMES.
THEN YOU KNOW THAT EVEN SUPERMAN HAS HIS LIMITS. THE HIGHEST HE'S EVER LEAPT IS TWENTY STORIES. IT'S NOT LIKE HE CAN FLY.
THE ATOM MAN WAS OUT OF RANGE.
WEEOOOO! WEEOOOO!
LET'S SEE ABOUT TURNING OFF THAT "MASTERFULLY ENGINEERED DEVICE"!
HNN...
IT'S THE SMELL THAT HITS ME FIRST.
LIKE ASH AND ROT AND... SOMETHING ELSE. SOMETHING SO FAMILIAR IT BRINGS TEARS TO MY EYES.
YET FOR THE LIFE OF ME, I CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT IT IS.

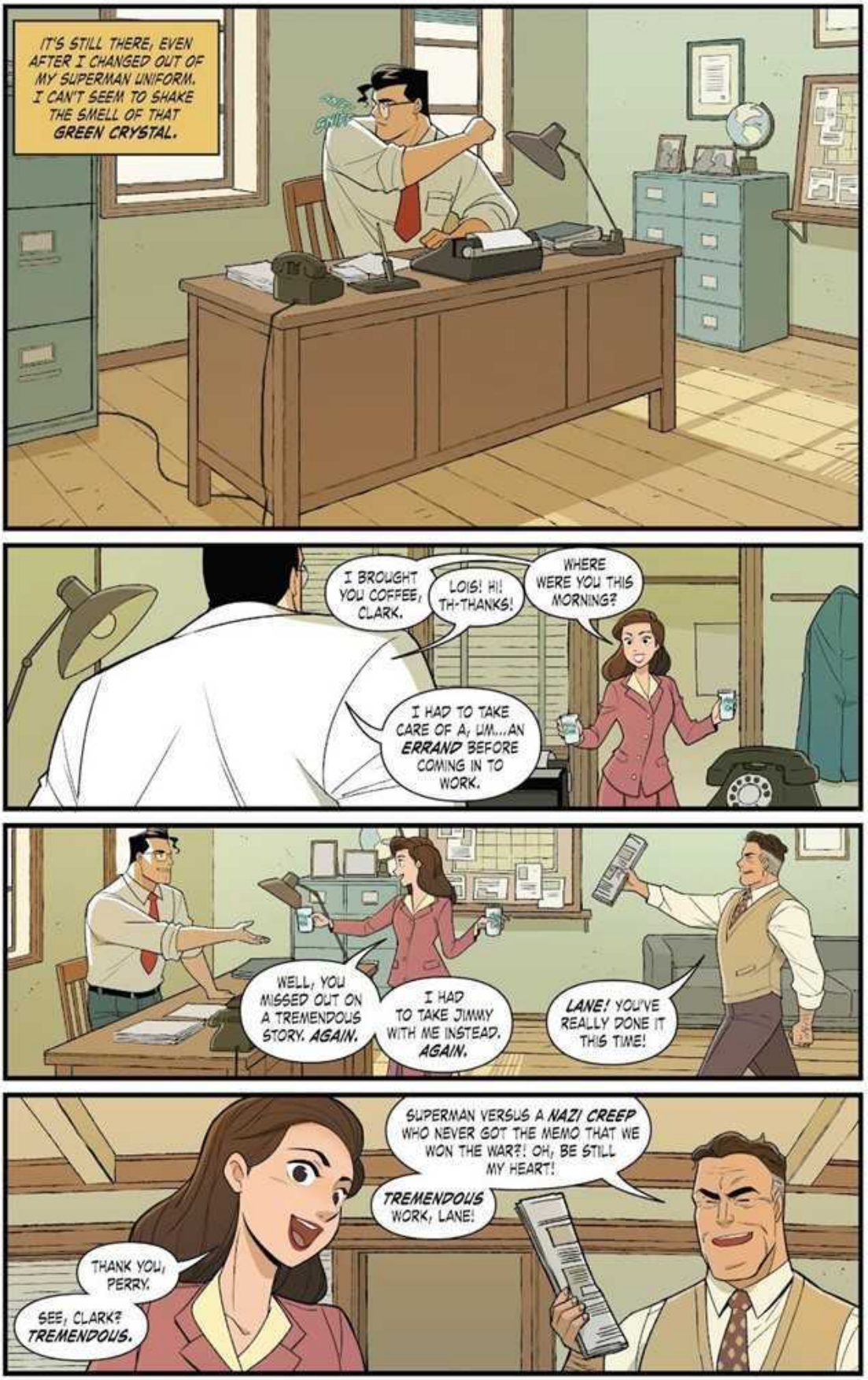
THE SMELL FIRST, THEN THE PAIN.
FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER, I'VE PRETENDED. WHENEVER SOMEBODY ACCIDENTALLY BUMPED INTO ME OR STEPPED ON MY TOE, I'VE HAD TO FAKE A WINCE. BUT THIS...
THIS IS REAL.
IF THAT WEIRD GREEN CRYSTAL CAN AFFECT EVEN ME, IT'LL KILL THE OTHERS.
LOIS... JIMMY...STAY BACK...!
OH NO...WHAT HAPPENED TO MY HAND?!
SUPERMAN...?
THE DEVICE ON ATOM MAN'S CHEST... THE SOURCE OF HIS POWER...IT'S...

—IT'S NO LONGER A CONCERN.
INSPECTOR HENDERSON...!
RRRRR!
WILL YOU LOOK AT THAT! WITHOUT HIS FANCY GADGET, HE'S JUST A SCRAWNY KID!
THE ATOM MAN...IS DONE FOR...
YOU SAVING THAT LID FOR A SOUVENIR, SUPERMAN?
NO... HERE YOU GO...
IS HE JUST TOO POLITE TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT MY HAND?
YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD... YOU'RE NOT COMING DOWN WITH A COLD, ARE YOU? I DIDN'T KNOW THAT WAS EVEN POSSIBLE!
I'M...OKAY, INSPECTOR.
SNAP
NOW THAT THE GREEN CRYSTAL IS SEALED UP AGAIN, MY HAND IS BACK TO NORMAL! THE PAIN IS GONE, TOO...BUT I CAN STILL SMELL THE SMELL.
CHICKEN SOUP, BIG GUY. SOUP WILL MAKE YOU SUPER AGAIN IN NO TIME.
GET IT? "SOUP-ER"? HA HA!
I'D BE HAPPY TO BRING OVER A POT FOR YOU, SUPERMAN.
IN EXCHANGE FOR SOME ANSWERS.

NO NEED TO BRIBE ME WITH SOUP, MS. LANE. I'M ALWAYS HAPPY TO TALK WITH YOU.
GOOD. BECAUSE I'M A TERRIBLE COOK.
OH, I CAN'T IMAGINE YOU BEING TERRIBLE AT ANYTHING.
A CONVERSATION FOR TWO, I SEE...
AHEM. SUPERMAN. THERE ARE PLENTY OF THEORIES AS TO HOW YOU BECAME... WELL, SUPER.
SOME SAY YOU DRANK A MEGAVITAMIN SERUM. OTHERS SAY YOU WERE EXPOSED TO RADIATION AT AN EARLY AGE.
STILL OTHERS SAY YOUR EXTRAORDINARY ABILITIES ARE THE RESULT OF TRAINING WITH A CULT OF MYSTICS IN THE HIMALAYAS.
CARE TO CONFIRM ANY OF THOSE?
HA HA! TRAINING IN THE HIMALAYAS! I LIKE THAT. LET'S GO WITH THAT ONE.
I WANT THE TRUTH!
AND KNOWING YOU, YOU'LL GET IT SOMEDAY. JUST NOT TODAY.
MY CHICKEN SOUP OFFER STILL STANDS!
I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU'RE A TERRIBLE COOK!
SNAP!
JIMMY! GOOD TO SEE YOU!
RIGHT BACK ATCHA, SUPERMAN!
I PUT ON MY BEST SMILE AS I LEAVE. NO SENSE WORRYING LOIS OR JIMMY.
NO MATTER HOW FAST I RUN, THOUGH, I CAN'T GET AWAY FROM THAT SMELL.
I THINK I'M GOING TO BE SICK.

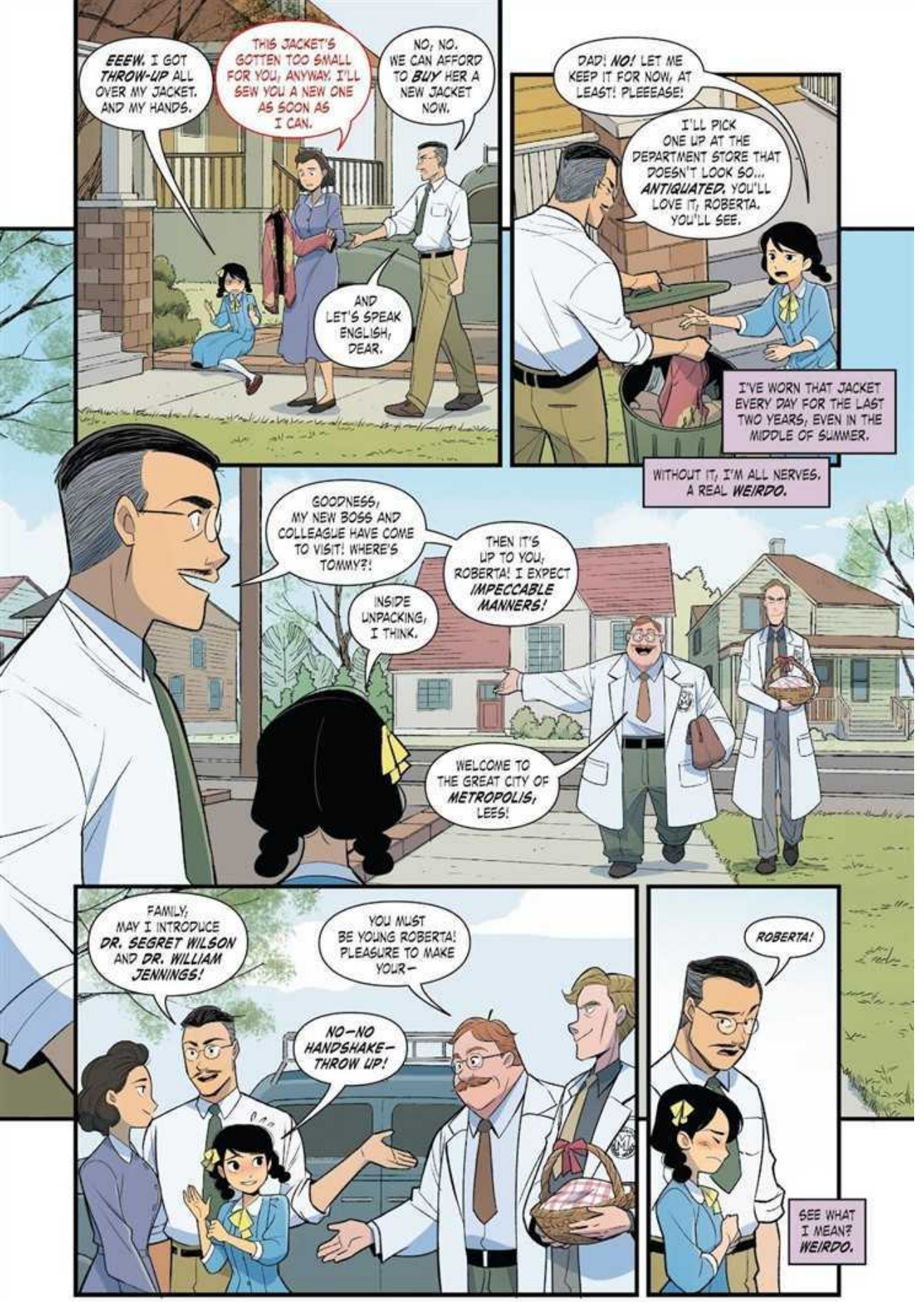

I THINK I'M GOING TO BE SICK.
UGH...
I'M NOT SURE IF IT'S THE WAY THE CAR IS MOVING OR THE FACT THAT WE JUST LEFT THE ONLY HOME I'VE EVER KNOWN. MAYBE BOTH.
MA CAME TO AMERICA A FEW MONTHS BEFORE MARRYING DAD. SHE'S STILL MOST COMFORTABLE SPEAKING CANTONESE.
LAN-SHIN, ARE YOU NOT FEELING WELL?
IN ENGLISH, DEAR.
YES...YOU RIGHT. I FORGET. LAN-SHIN, YOU YOU...
INCLUDING OUR NAMES.
ROBERTA, YOU...BAD TUMMY?
THE CAR IS MAKING MY STOMACH A BIT GURGLY, IS ALL.
AW, WHY DO YOU ALWAYS GOTTA BE SUCH A POOPER, ROBERTA?
THIS IS WAY MORE FUN THAN THE BUS!
YES, TOMMY. I'M PURPOSELY MAKING MY STOMACH GURGLY JUST TO RUIN YOUR FUN.
PERHAPS YOU'LL FEEL BETTER IF YOU LOOK OUT THE WINDOW.

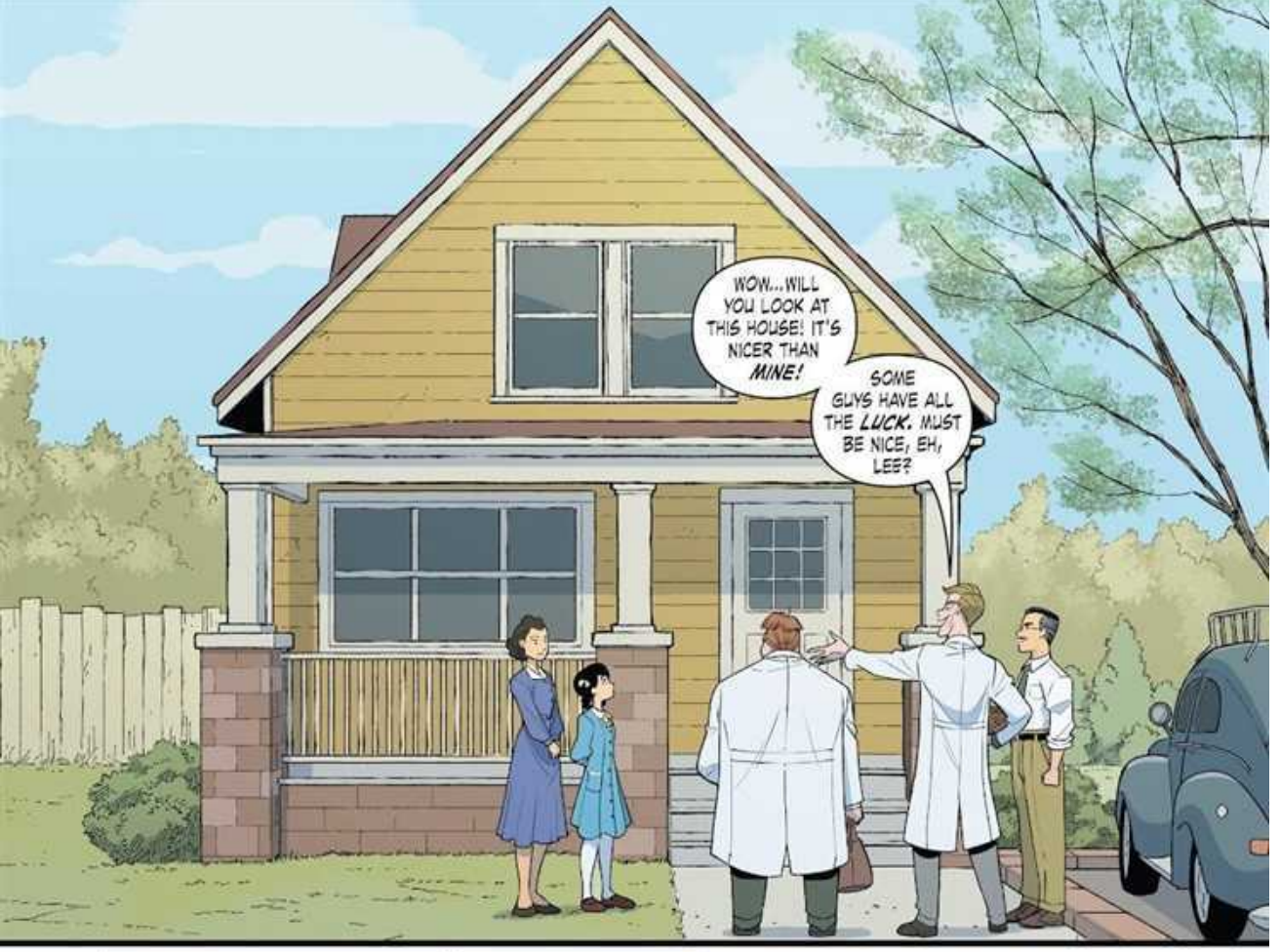
WHOAAA.
CAN YOU BELIEVE WE GET TO LIVE IN METROPOLIS?!
SSS!
WE'VE LIVED IN METROPOLIS OUR WHOLE LIVES, TUBBY!
HEY! WHO'RE YOU CALLING A DUMMY?!
WHO'RE YOU CALLING A POOPER?!
CHILDREN! SETTLE DOWN!
AND TONY IS RIGHT. WE LIVED IN CHINATOWN. IT'S NOT THE SAME. YOU'LL SEE.
THE DAILY PLANET BUILDING LOOKS LIKE IT'S STRAIGHT OUTTA THE FUTURE! HOW DOES THAT NOT MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER, SSS!
BLARE!


IT'S STILL THERE, EVEN AFTER I CHANGED OUT OF MY SUPERMAN UNIFORM. I CAN'T SEEM TO SHAKE THE SMELL OF THAT GREEN CRYSTAL.
SNIFF
I BROUGHT YOU COFFEE, CLARK.
LOIS! HI! TH-THANKS!
WHERE WERE YOU THIS MORNING?
I HAD TO TAKE CARE OF A, UM...AN ERRAND BEFORE COMING IN TO WORK.
WELL, YOU MISSED OUT ON A TREMENDOUS STORY. AGAIN.
I HAD TO TAKE JIMMY WITH ME INSTEAD. AGAIN.
LANE! YOU'VE REALLY DONE IT THIS TIME!
SUPERMAN VERSUS A NAZI CREEP WHO NEVER GOT THE MEMO THAT WE WON THE WAR?! OH, BE STILL MY HEART!
TREMENDOUS WORK, LANE!
THANK YOU, PERRY.
SEE, CLARK? TREMENDOUS.

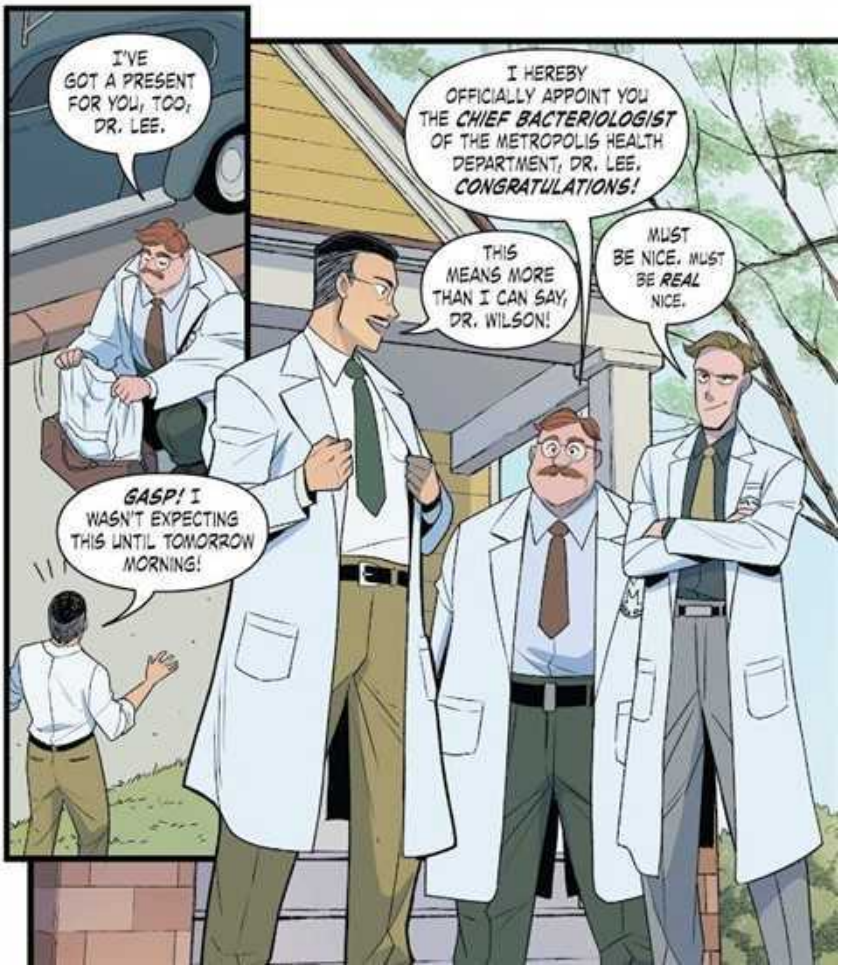
UH... KENT? WHY IN TARNATION ARE YOU SNIFFING YOURSELF LIKE THAT?
OH! UM...
DO LAUNDRY ONCE IN A WHILE AND YOU WON'T HAVE THAT PROBLEM.
HEH HEH! APPRECIATE THE ADVICE, LOIS!
WELP, BACK TO WORK FOR ME! I'LL CATCH YOU TWO LATER!
WAIT, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?! THIS IS YOUR OFFICE!
HOW IS THAT GUY ONE OF MY BEST REPORTERS?
I ASK MYSELF THAT EVERY DAY.
SPLASH
COME ON, CLARK. GET IT TOGETHER.

AAAH!
HOW...?
WEEOOO!
WEEOOO!
A POLICE SIREN IN THE DISTANCE. FIVE MILES AWAY, TOPS.
PA ALWAYS SAID, MINDING YOURSELF TOO MUCH IS A GOOD WAY TO LOSE YOUR MIND.
TIME FOR ME TO MIND SOMEONE ELSE.


EEEW. I GOT THROW-UP ALL OVER MY JACKET. AND MY HANDS.
THIS JACKET'S GOTTEN TOO SMALL FOR YOU, ANYWAY. I'LL SEW YOU A NEW ONE AS SOON AS I CAN.
NO, NO. WE CAN AFFORD TO BUY HER A NEW JACKET NOW.
AND LET'S SPEAK ENGLISH, DEAR.
DAD! NO! LET ME KEEP IT FOR NOW, AT LEAST! PLEEEASE!
I'LL PICK ONE UP AT THE DEPARTMENT STORE THAT DOESN'T LOOK SO... ANTIQUATED. YOU'LL LOVE IT, ROBERTA. YOU'LL SEE.
I'VE WORN THAT JACKET EVERY DAY FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS, EVEN IN THE MIDDLE OF SUMMER.
WITHOUT IT, I'M ALL NERVES. A REAL WEIRDO.
GOODNESS, MY NEW BOSS AND COLLEAGUE HAVE COME TO VISIT! WHERE'S TOMMY?!
INSIDE UNPACKING, I THINK.
THEN IT'S UP TO YOU, ROBERTA! I EXPECT IMPECCABLE MANNERS!
WELCOME TO THE GREAT CITY OF METROPOLIS, LEES!
FAMILY, MAY I INTRODUCE DR. SEGRET WILSON AND DR. WILLIAM JENNINGS!
YOU MUST BE YOUNG ROBERTA! PLEASURE TO MAKE YOUR—
NO—NO HANDSHAKE—THROW UP!
ROBERTA!
SEE WHAT I MEAN? WEIRDO.


WOW...WILL YOU LOOK AT THIS HOUSE! IT'S NICER THAN MINE!
SOME GUYS HAVE ALL THE LUCK. MUST BE NICE, EH, LEE?

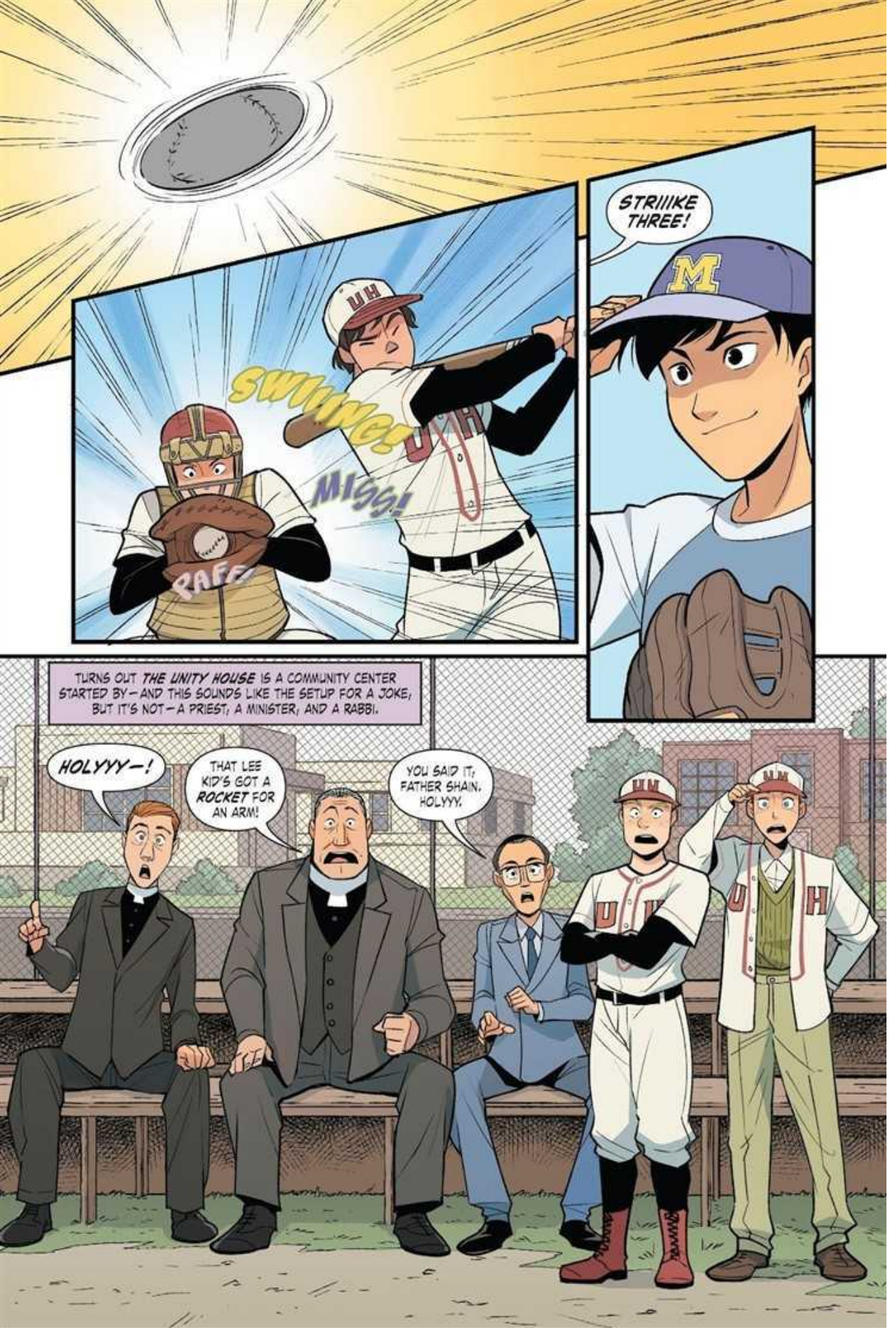
I BROUGHT YOU FOLKS A PIE.
"A GOOD SMELL"! HA! WHAT A THING TO SAY!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH. A...A GOOD SMELL.
DON'T MEAN TO DISAPPOINT, BUT THAT "GOOD SMELL" IS APPLE, NOT DOG.
THIS JENNINGS GUY IS A REAL CREEP.


I'VE GOT A PRESENT FOR YOU, TOO, DR. LEE.
GASP! I WASN'T EXPECTING THIS UNTIL TOMORROW MORNING!
I HEREBY OFFICIALLY APPOINT YOU THE CHIEF BACTERIOLOGIST OF THE METROPOLIS HEALTH DEPARTMENT, DR. LEE. CONGRATULATIONS!
THIS MEANS MORE THAN I CAN SAY, DR. WILSON!
MUST BE NICE. MUST BE REAL NICE.

IS THAT A BIRD...?
NO, A PLANE.
A PAPER AIRPLANE.
MY BROTHER AND I HAVE BEEN PULLING THIS SAME TRICK SINCE WE WERE LITTLE.
Sorry for calling you a pooper. Can we be friends again?
( ) Yes
( ) No
SIGH.
IT WORKS EVERY TIME.
HERE, TOMMY.

Sorry about calling you a pooper. Can we be friends again?
Yes I am sorry too. You are often not a dummy.
I'M FEELING GENEROUS, SIS, SO I'LL LET YOU CHOOSE. TOP BUNK OR BOTTOM?
I'LL TAKE THE BOTTOM.
IF YOU INSIST!
I KNEW HE WANTED THE TOP.
Y'KNOW, THE VIEW UP HERE IS SOMETHING ELSE!
GOSH... IS THAT...IT'S GOTTA BE! AND HE'S COMING OUR WAY!
QUICK, ROBERTA! OUTSIDE!

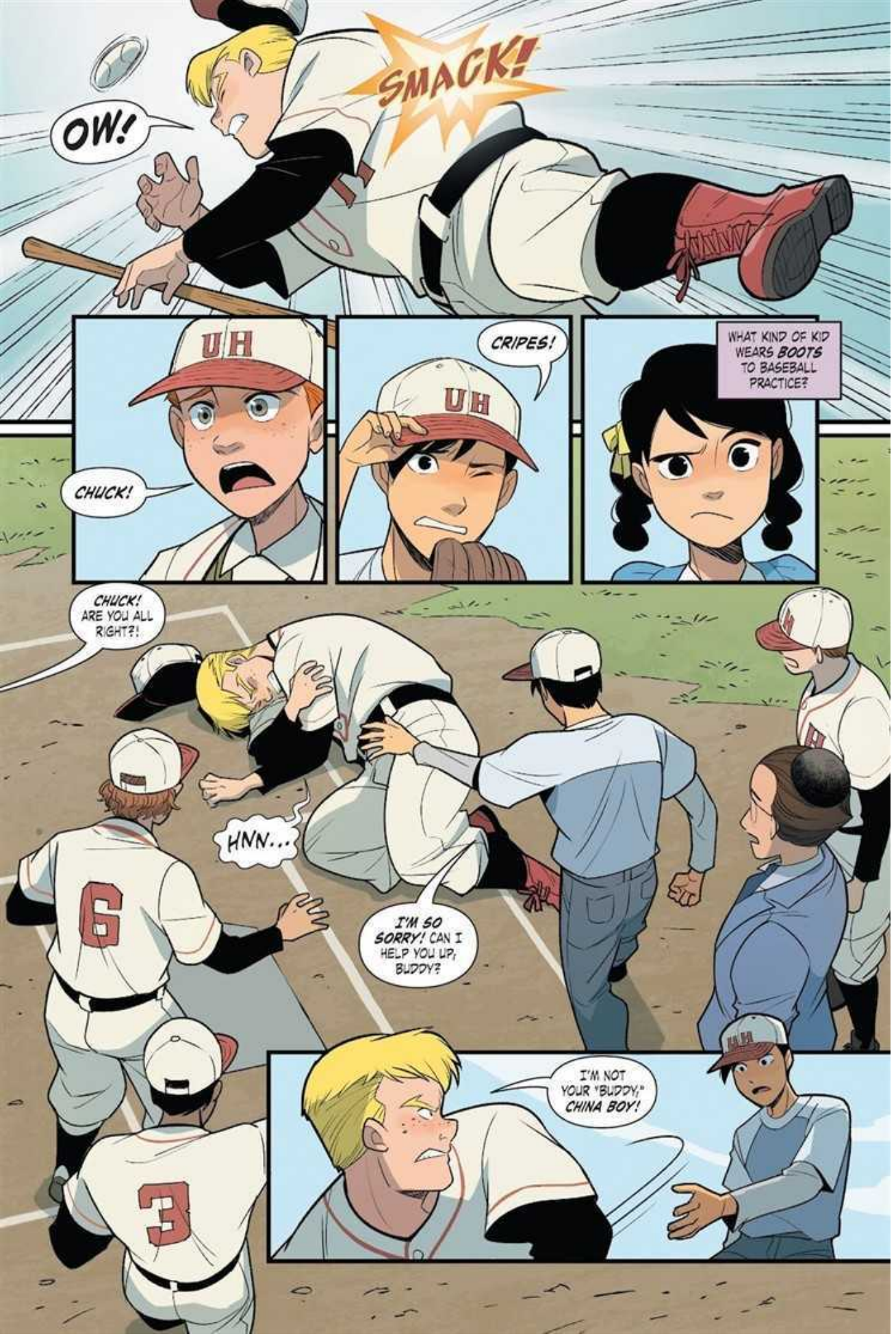
WHOAAA.
HWOOOSH!
WEEE-OOO!
WEEE-OOO!
WAS THAT... SUPERMAN?
SURE WAS! HE RUNS ACROSS TELEPHONE WIRES SO HE WON'T GET IN THE WAY OF TRAFFIC.
WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD! THE NAME'S JIMMY OLSEN. I'M YOUR ACROSS-THE-STREET NEIGHBOR!
HEY, JIMMY! I'M TOMMY LEE.
UH
AND YOU ARE...?
ROBERTA— NO HANDSHAKE— THROW-UP!
SIS!
NICE TO MEET THE BOTH OF YOU, TOMMY LEE AND, UH, ROBERTA NOHANDSHAKE THROWUP!
LISTEN, I'M HEADED TO THE UNITY HOUSE, OVER ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD. THE BASEBALL TEAM I MANAGE IS ABOUT TO START PRACTICE.
WHY DON'T YOU TWO COME ALONG? I'LL INTRODUCE YOU AROUND.
BASEBALL, HUH?

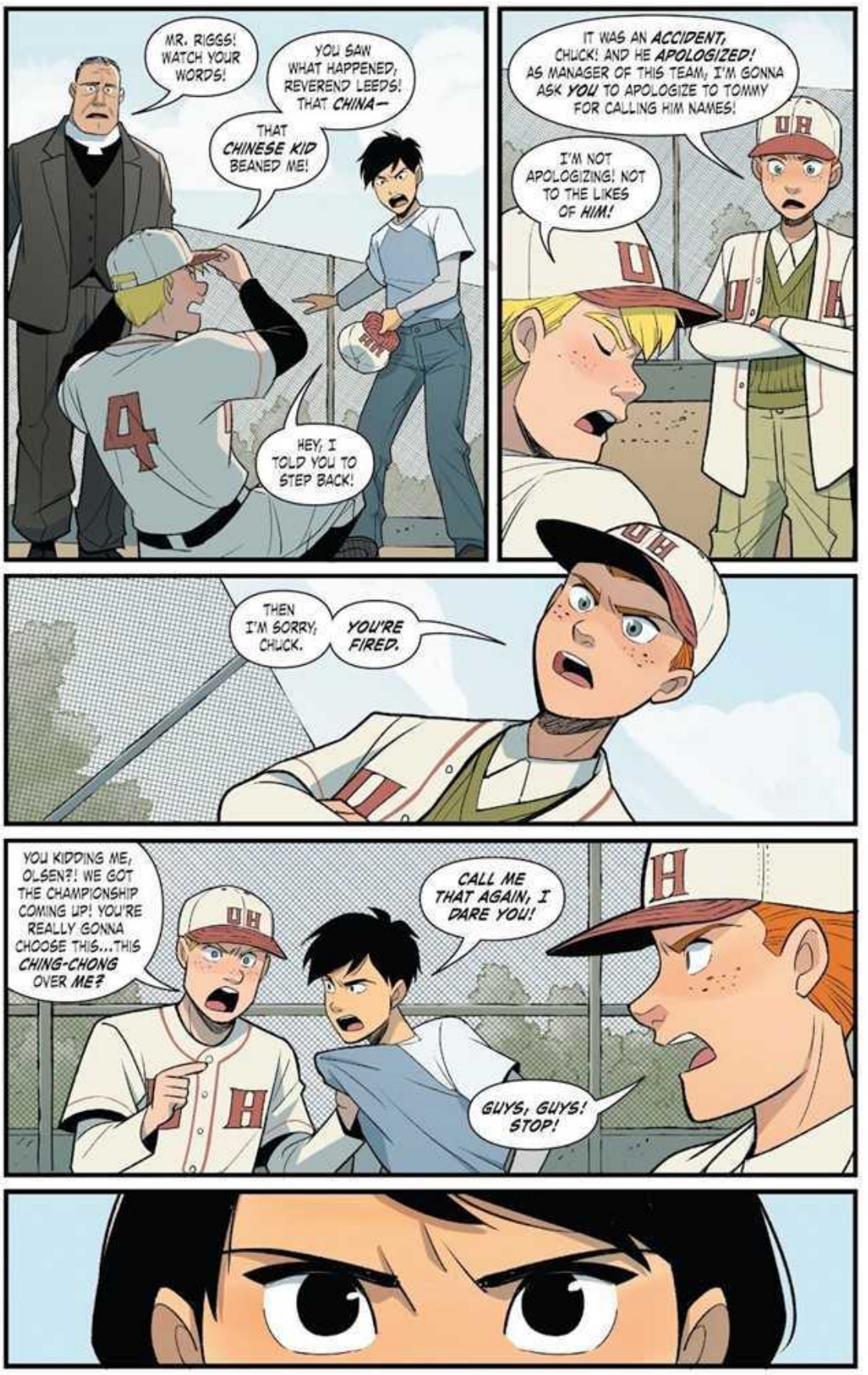

STRIIIKE THREE!
SWING!
MISS!
UH
M
TURNS OUT THE UNITY HOUSE IS A COMMUNITY CENTER STARTED BY—AND THIS SOUNDS LIKE THE SETUP FOR A JOKE, BUT IT'S NOT—A PRIEST, A MINISTER, AND A RABBI.
HOLYYY—!
THAT LEE KID'S GOT A ROCKET FOR AN ARM!
YOU SAID IT, FATHER SHAIN. HOLYYY.

JACKET OR NO, YOU CAN DO THIS, ROBERTA. YOU CAN MAKE FRIENDS.
YOU WASHED YOUR HANDS AND EVERYTHING.
THEY WANTED TO BRING THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF METROPOLIS TOGETHER.
EVEN THE WEIRDOS.
HI. I'M ROBERTA LEE.
I WASHED MY HANDS.
UM? THAT'S VERY, UH...CLEAN OF YOU.
WAIT...THE PITCHER MUST BE YOUR BROTHER! ARE YOU CHINESE OR JAPANESE?
CHINESE.
OH, THANK GOODNESS! Y'KNOW, I'VE NEVER MET A CHINESE BEFORE! UP CLOSE LIKE THIS, I MEAN!
YOUR BROTHER'S SPECTACULAR! YOU THINK IT'D BE OKAY IF I GO SAY HELLO? HOW DO YOU SAY HELLO IN CHINESE?
NEIH HOU.
BUT WE SPEAK ENGLISH, TOO.
OBVIOUSLY.
IS THIS WHAT MY LIFE WILL BE LIKE FROM NOW ON? ALWAYS WATCHING FROM THE SIDELINES?
SIGH.
I MISS MY JACKET.
I MISS HOME.

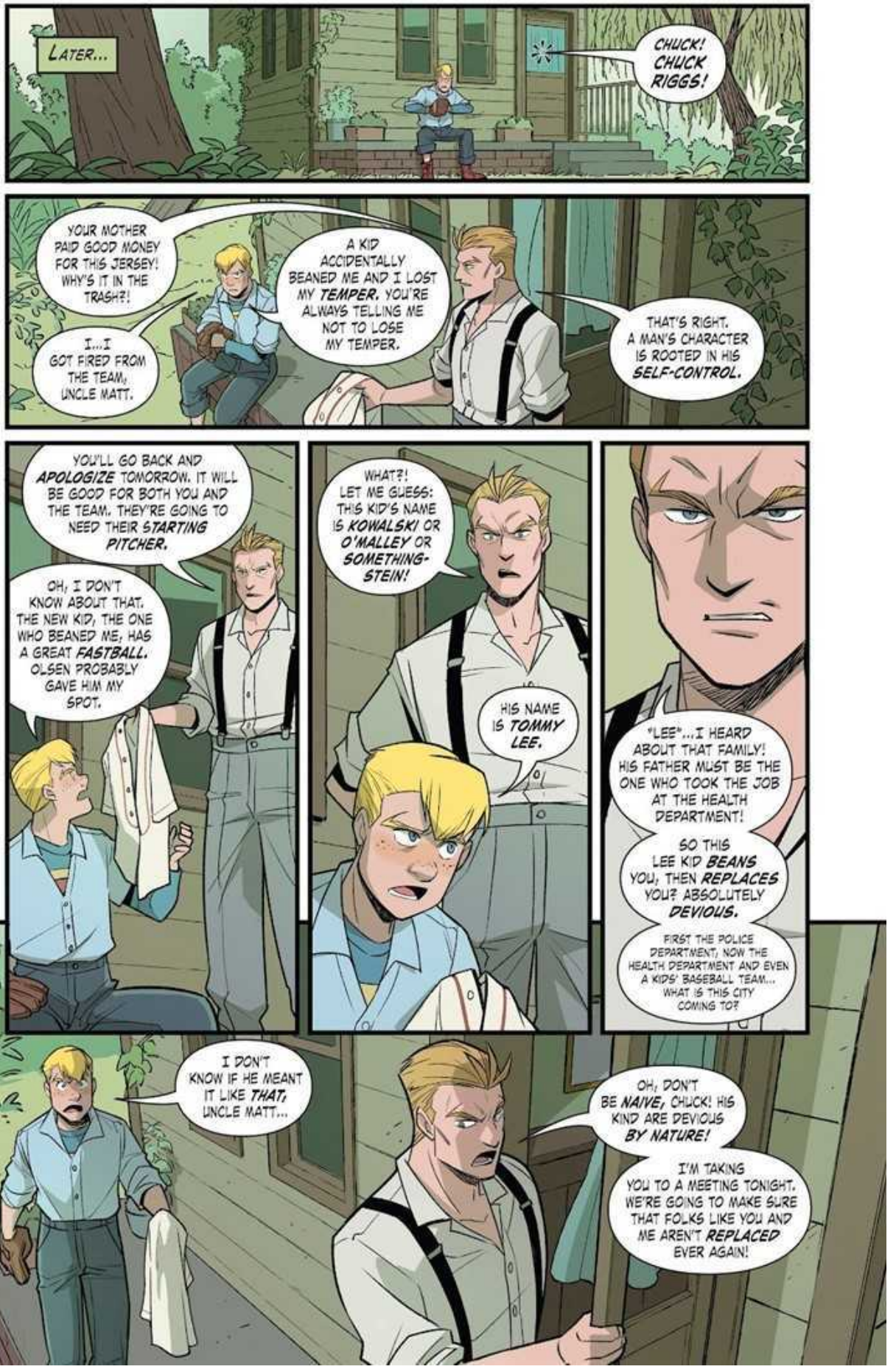
--JUST SPECTACULAR!
AW, IT WAS NOTHIN'!
A ROCKET FOR AN ARM, I TELL YOU!
PERHAPS WE SHOULD—
WAY AHEAD OF YOU, RABBI STONE!
HEY, TOMMY! I GOT SOMETHING FOR YOU!
WILL YA LOOK AT THAT! THE CAP'S A PERFECT FIT! HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN THE UNITY HOUSE BASEBALL TEAM?
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
ATTABOY, TOMMY!
HEY, NEW KID! HOW ABOUT YOU SHOW ME WHATCHA GOT?!
NOW, HOLD ON A SECOND, CHUCK! THAT'S NO WAY TO TALK TO YOUR NEW TEAMMATE!
WHO'S THAT?
CHUCK RIGGS, OUR STARTING PITCHER. OR HE WAS, AT LEAST, BEFORE YOU CAME ALONG.

MY NAME'S TOMMY, NOT "NEW KID"! AND I'LL BE HAPPY TO SHOW YOU WHAT I GOT AS SOON AS YOU STOP CROWDING THE PLATE!
BAH! JUST PITCH!
STEP BACK! I'M AFRAID I MIGHT BEAN YOU!
LISTEN TO HIM, CHUCK! GET BACK!
AW! YOU'RE AFRAID?!
PITCH, YA YELLOW BANANA!
UH
FINE.

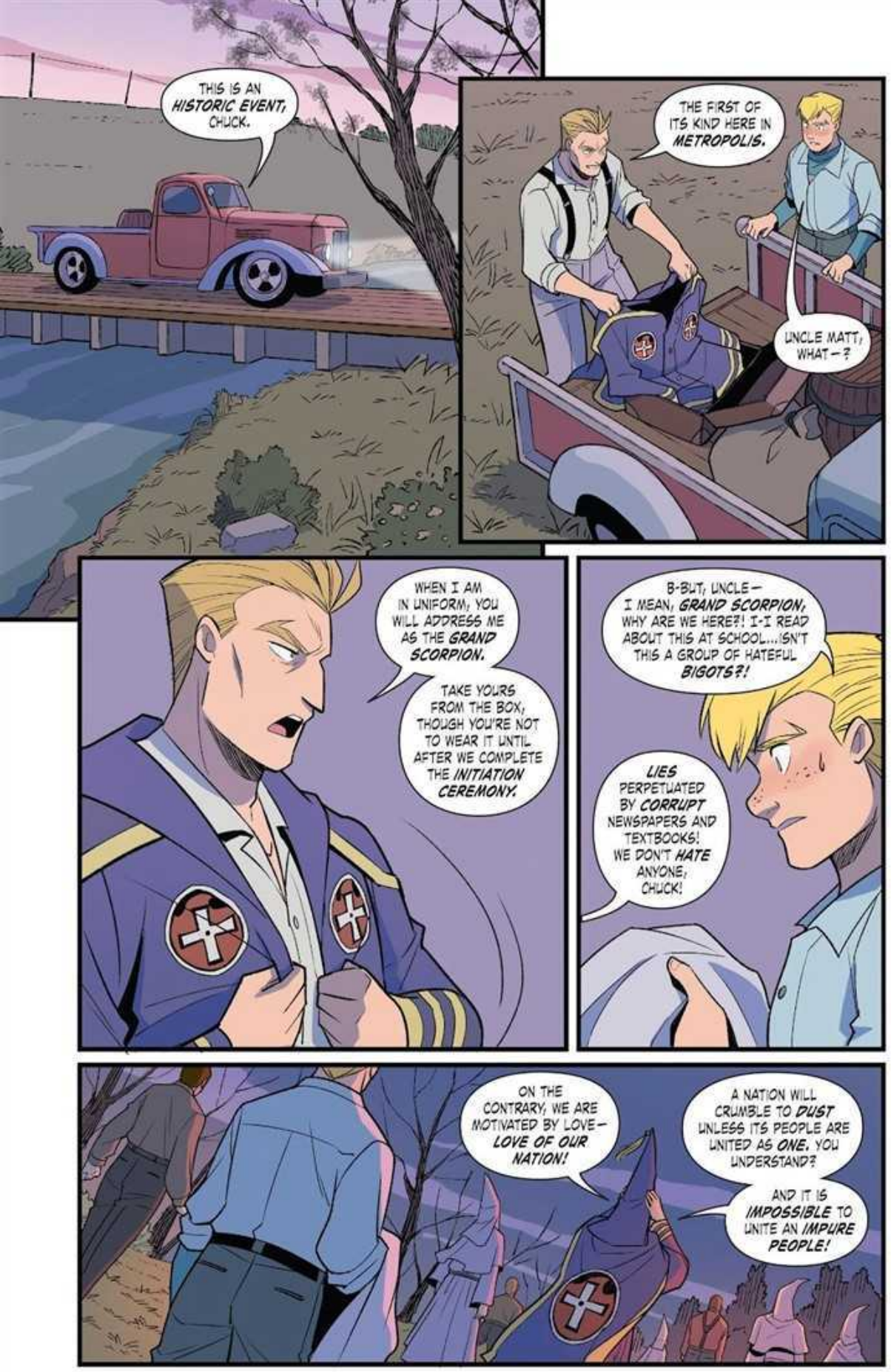

SMACK!
OW!
UH
CHUCK!
CRIPES!
UH
WHAT KIND OF KID WEARS BOOTS TO BASEBALL PRACTICE?
CHUCK! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
HNN...
I'M SO SORRY! CAN I HELP YOU UP, BUDDY?
6
3
I'M NOT YOUR "BUDDY," CHINA BOY!


MR. RIGGS! WATCH YOUR WORDS!
YOU SAW WHAT HAPPENED, REVEREND LEEDS! THAT CHINA—
THAT CHINESE KID BEANED ME!
HEY, I TOLD YOU TO STEP BACK!
IT WAS AN ACCIDENT, CHUCK! AND HE APOLOGIZED! AS MANAGER OF THIS TEAM, I'M GONNA ASK YOU TO APOLOGIZE TO TOMMY FOR CALLING HIM NAMES!
I'M NOT APOLOGIZING! NOT TO THE LIKES OF HIM!
THEN I'M SORRY, CHUCK.
YOU'RE FIRED.
YOU KIDDING ME, OLSEN?! WE GOT THE CHAMPIONSHIP COMING UP! YOU'RE REALLY GONNA CHOOSE THIS...THIS CHING-CHONG OVER ME?
CALL ME THAT AGAIN, I DARE YOU!
GUYS, GUYS! STOP!

CHUCK— NO FIGHTING— COWARD!
HA! THERE'S A CHINA GIRL, TOO?
A CHINA GIRL WHO BARELY SPEAKS ENGLISH.
I FOCUS ON WHAT I HAVE TO DO TO PROTECT TOMMY.
...
I SPEAK ENGLISH JUST FINE.
WHAT I'M ASKING IS, ARE YOU THE KIND OF COWARD WHO'S WILLING TO FIGHT A GIRL HALF YOUR SIZE?
BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT YOU'LL HAVE TO DO TO GET TO HIM.
HERE, CHINA GIRL.
MAYBE OLSEN'LL INVITE YOU ON THE TEAM, TOO.
COME ON, EVERYBODY! FORGET THAT SOREHEAD! WE GOT A PRACTICE TO RUN!


LATER...
CHUCK! CHUCK RIGGS!
YOUR MOTHER PAID GOOD MONEY FOR THIS JERSEY! WHY'S IT IN THE TRASH?!
I...I GOT FIRED FROM THE TEAM, UNCLE MATT.
A KID ACCIDENTALLY BEANED ME AND I LOST MY TEMPER. YOU'RE ALWAYS TELLING ME NOT TO LOSE MY TEMPER.
THAT'S RIGHT. A MAN'S CHARACTER IS ROOTED IN HIS SELF-CONTROL.
YOU'LL GO BACK AND APOLOGIZE TOMORROW. IT WILL BE GOOD FOR BOTH YOU AND THE TEAM. THEY'RE GOING TO NEED THEIR STARTING PITCHER.
OH, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT. THE NEW KID, THE ONE WHO BEANED ME, HAS A GREAT FASTBALL. OLSEN PROBABLY GAVE HIM MY SPOT.
WHAT?! LET ME GUESS: THIS KID'S NAME IS KOWALSKI OR O'MALLEY OR SOMETHING-STEIN!
HIS NAME IS TOMMY LEE.
"LEE"... I HEARD ABOUT THAT FAMILY! HIS FATHER MUST BE THE ONE WHO TOOK THE JOB AT THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT!
SO THIS LEE KID BEANS YOU, THEN REPLACES YOU? ABSOLUTELY DEVIOUS.
FIRST THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, NOW THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND EVEN A KIDS' BASEBALL TEAM... WHAT IS THIS CITY COMING TO?
I DON'T KNOW IF HE MEANT IT LIKE THAT, UNCLE MATT...
OH, DON'T BE NAIVE, CHUCK! HIS KIND ARE DEVIOUS BY NATURE!
I'M TAKING YOU TO A MEETING TONIGHT. WE'RE GOING TO MAKE SURE THAT FOLKS LIKE YOU AND ME AREN'T REPLACED EVER AGAIN!

WHAT ARE YOU SO SORE ABOUT?!
I DON'T NEED MY LITTLE SISTER DEFENDING ME, ROBERTA! THAT WAS HUMILIATING!
TOMMY, YOU JUST STARTED MAKING FRIENDS HERE! YOU JUST GOT YOURSELF A BRAND-NEW BASEBALL CAP!
AND YOU WERE JUST GONNA SOCK THAT JERK IN FRONT OF JIMMY AND THOSE OTHER KIDS AND THOSE HOLY-ROLLERS?! WHAT DO YOU THINK WOULD'VE HAPPENED THEN?!
THAT JERK WOULD'VE THOUGHT TWICE BEFORE CALLING ME NAMES NEXT TIME!
NO, YOU DUMMY! YOU WOULD'VE HAD TO GIVE BACK YOUR STUPID BASEBALL CAP, THAT'S WHAT!
FITTING IN COMES SO EASILY TO YOU; YOU'VE NEVER EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT HOW YOU ACTUALLY DO IT!
...
ROBERTA! WAIT!
YOU SEE THE WAY CHUCK LOOKED AT YOU WHEN YOU STOOD UP TO HIM?
TALK ABOUT A DUMMY. HA HA!


THIS IS AN HISTORIC EVENT, CHUCK.
THE FIRST OF ITS KIND HERE IN METROPOLIS.
UNCLE MATT, WHAT—?
WHEN I AM IN UNIFORM, YOU WILL ADDRESS ME AS THE GRAND SCORPION.
TAKE YOURS FROM THE BOX, THOUGH YOU'RE NOT TO WEAR IT UNTIL AFTER WE COMPLETE THE INITIATION CEREMONY.
B-BUT, UNCLE— I MEAN, GRAND SCORPION, WHY ARE WE HERE?! I-I READ ABOUT THIS AT SCHOOL...ISN'T THIS A GROUP OF HATEFUL BIGOTS?!
LIES PERPETUATED BY CORRUPT NEWSPAPERS AND TEXTBOOKS! WE DON'T HATE ANYONE, CHUCK!
ON THE CONTRARY, WE ARE MOTIVATED BY LOVE— LOVE OF OUR NATION!
A NATION WILL CRUMBLE TO DUST UNLESS ITS PEOPLE ARE UNITED AS ONE. YOU UNDERSTAND?
AND IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO UNITE AN IMPURE PEOPLE!

ONE RACE! ONE COLOR! ONE RELIGION!
THAT IS THE MISSION OF THE KLAN OF THE FIERY KROSS...
TO BURN AWAY AMERICA'S IMPURITIES!

IT'S GOTTEN WORSE. MY ENTIRE APARTMENT IS NOW FILLED WITH THAT SMELL.
BUT HOW CAN THAT BE? THE GREEN CRYSTAL IS SAFELY IN THE HANDS OF THE METROPOLIS POLICE DEPARTMENT.
IT'S ALL IN MY HEAD. IT HAS TO BE.
MAYBE I AM COMING DOWN WITH SOMETHING. I BET I CAN FIND A CAN OF CHICKEN SOUP IN THE KITCHEN CUPBOARD.
BRBL... BRBL... BRBL...
?!
SOMEONE'S BROKEN IN!
IT'LL BE TOO OBVIOUS IF I CHANGE INTO UNIFORM NOW. I'LL HAVE TO CONFRONT THEM AS CLARK.
BRBL... BRBL... BRBL...
MA...?
PA...?

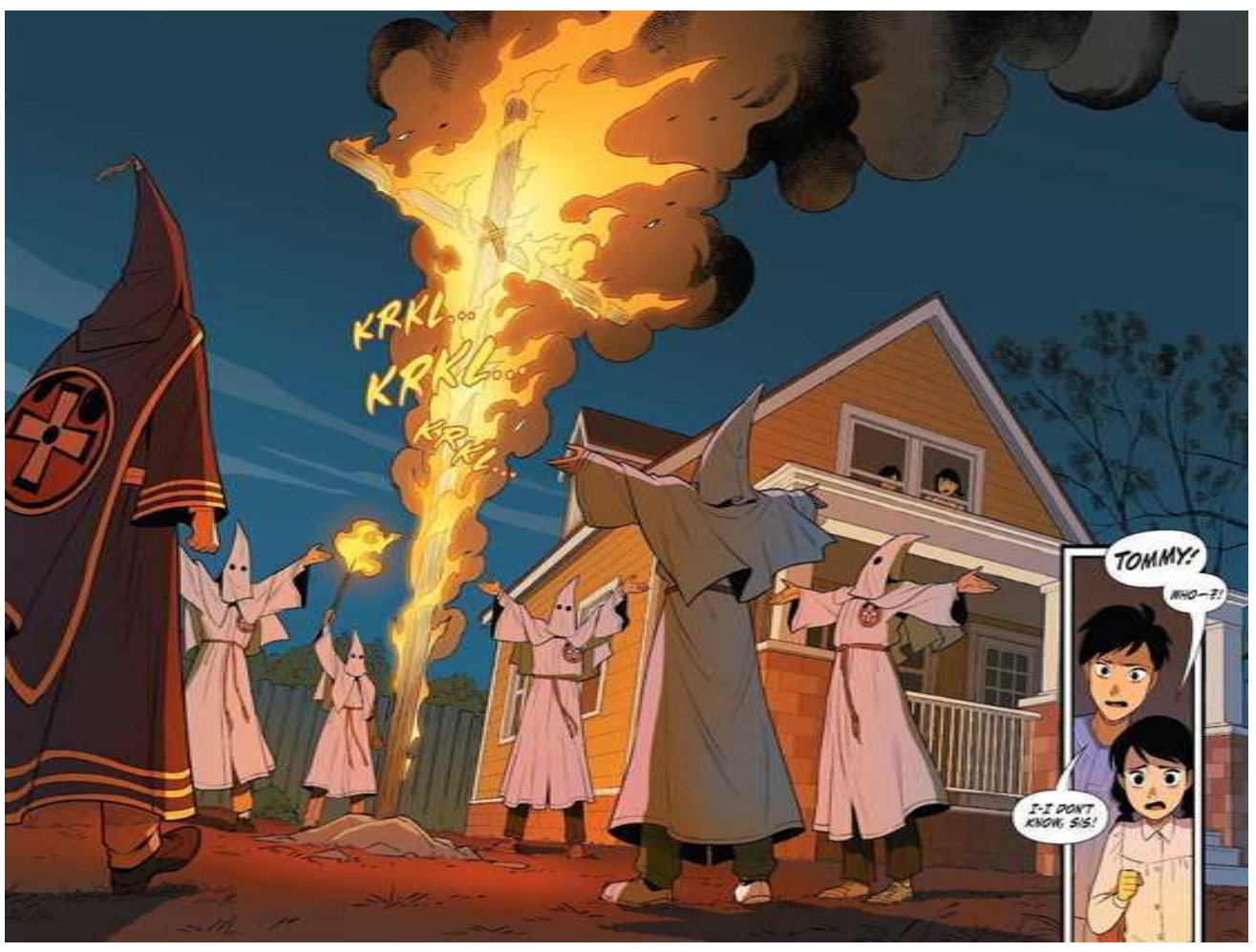
?!
THIS IS A DREAM, RIGHT? YOU'RE A DREAM!
THEIR VOICES...

I'VE HEARD THEIR VOICES BEFORE.
SMALLVILLE. 1926.
CLARK! COME LOOK AT THIS!
WHAT IS IT, PA?
I'VE BEEN TINKERING WITH IT FOR MONTHS AND MONTHS!

CAN'T SAY FOR SURE, BUT I THINK IT'S SOME SORT OF RECORDING DEVICE, LIKE A PHONOGRAPH. LISTEN.
Click.
SOUNDS LIKE PEOPLE TALKING IN SOME OTHER LANGUAGE! WHERE'D YOU GET IT?
IT WAS WITH YOU WHEN WE FOUND YOU, SON.
JONATHAN, DEAR? MIGHT I HAVE A WORD?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
HE'S BEEN ASKING QUESTIONS EVER SINCE HE FIGURED OUT HE'S ADOPTED. DON'T YOU WANT HIM TO HAVE ANSWERS?
EVENTUALLY, I SUPPOSE, BUT NOT YET!
MARTHA, OUR SON IS EXTRAORDINARY. AND HE DESERVES TO KNOW JUST HOW EXTRAORDINARY!
OF COURSE HE'S EXTRAORDINARY! HE'S—
NO, NO. LISTEN. THAT ROCKET SHIP HE CAME IN... YOU KNOW HOW I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE GERMAN? OR JAPANESE?
I'VE TAKEN A GOOD LONG LOOK AT THE PARTS THAT WE WERE ABLE TO SALVAGE, MARTHA, AND I CAN GUARANTEE IT DIDN'T JUST COME ACROSS AN OCEAN. IT CAME FROM--
PLEASE, JONATHAN. NOT YET.
MA AND PA WERE A GOOD DISTANCE AWAY, TALKING QUIETLY. THEY DIDN'T THINK I COULD HEAR THEM.
BUT I COULD.

I HEARD EVERY WORD.
EAT
YOU WANT ME TO EAT?
ALL RIGHT...IF THAT'S HOW THE DREAM'S SUPPOSED TO GO.
IS THIS CHICKEN SOUP?
SIP
NOPE. DEFINITELY NOT. IT'S GOOD, THOUGH.
AN OLD FAMILY RECIPE. UNFORTUNATELY, WE DON'T HAVE CHICKENS WHERE WE'RE FROM.
WAIT—I CAN UNDERSTAND YOU! WHO ARE YOU?
HE ASKED WHO WE ARE, LOVE.
BUT THE REAL QUESTION IS... WHO IS HE?
WH-WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS? SLOWLY, IMPERFECTLY, BUT INEVITABLY...
YOU'RE REMEMBERING.

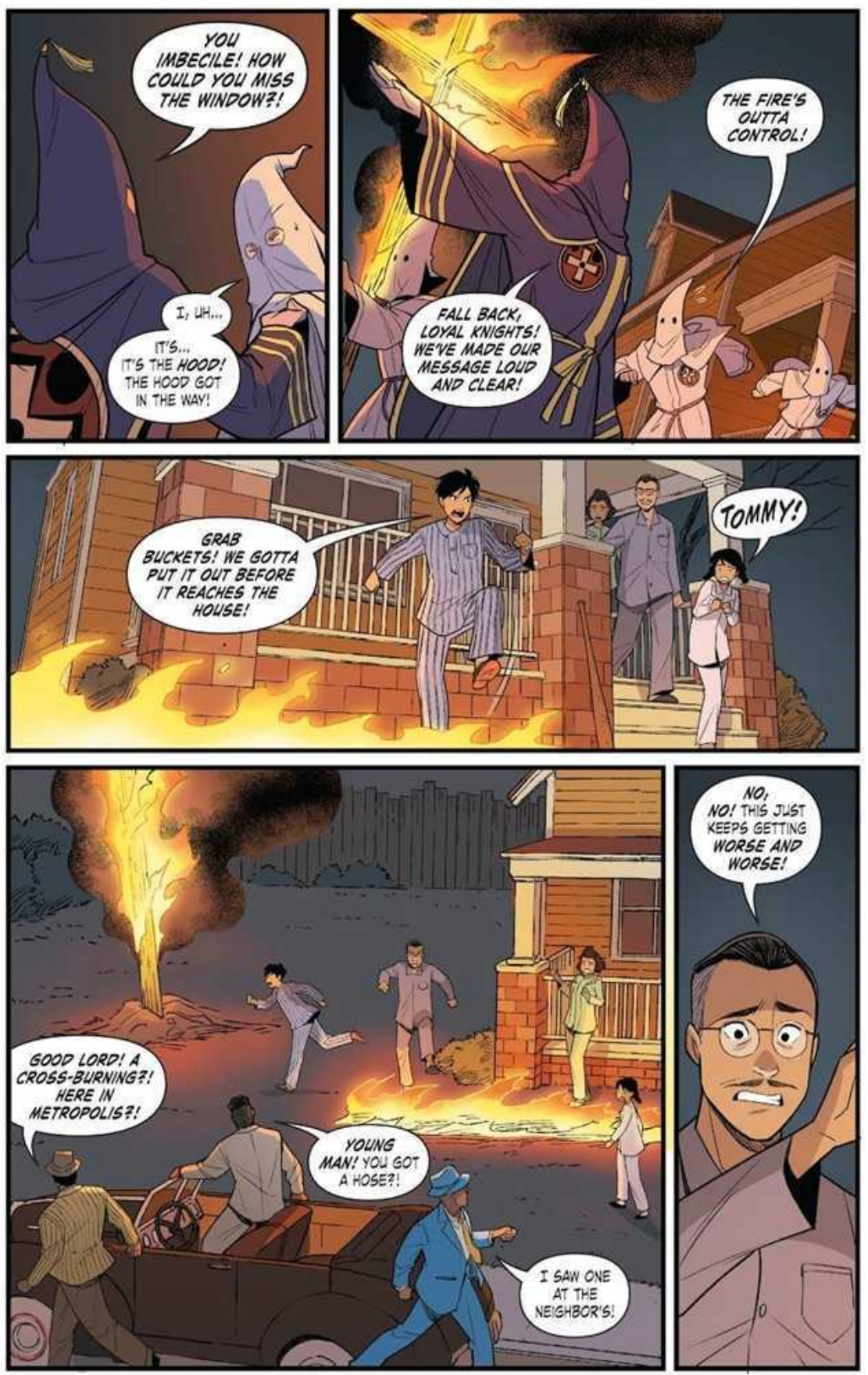
LOOK AT THIS BEAUTIFUL NEW JACKET YOUR FATHER BOUGHT FOR YOU!
IT IS BEAUTIFUL... BUT IT SMELLS LIKE PLASTIC.
MY OLD JACKET SMELLED LIKE YOU.
LAN-SHIN, WHEN I FIRST CAME TO AMERICA, I FELT LOST, EVEN IN CHINATOWN. BUT SLOWLY, I FIGURED THINGS OUT.
THE CORNER BAKERY, FOR INSTANCE, SERVED THE BEST EGG TARTS ON TUESDAYS BECAUSE THAT WAS THE ONLY DAY THE OWNER'S GRANDFATHER CAME IN TO BAKE.
AND THE WOODEN BENCH AT THE VERY EDGE OF THE PARK WAS THE BEST PLACE FOR YOUR FATHER AND ME TO WATCH THE SUNSET.
AND THE GRUMPY LADY WHO RAN THE TEA SHOP WASN'T REALLY GRUMPY AT ALL. SHE WAS ACTUALLY SWEET AND WARMHEARTED; ONCE YOU GOT TO KNOW HER.
BEFORE I KNEW IT, I'D FALLEN IN LOVE WITH CHINATOWN.
YOU UNDERSTAND? IF YOU LEARN ENOUGH SECRETS ABOUT A PLACE, IT BECOMES HOME.
GOOD NIGHT, DARLING.
GOOD NIGHT, MA.
SIGH.
KRKL... KRKL...
LIGHT...? FROM OUTSIDE...?


KRKL...
KRKL...
KRKL...
TOMMY!
WHO—?!
I-I DON'T KNOW, SIS!

CHILDREN! GET BACK FROM THE WINDOW!
THEY LOOK LIKE GHOSTS!
WE HAVE THEIR ATTENTION, GRAND SCORPION!
MY FELLOW KNIGHTS, I WARNED YOU THAT THESE NON-AMERICANS WOULD NOT BE SATISFIED WITH THEIR OWN FILTHY CORNERS OF OUR CITY!
SOONER OR LATER, THEY WOULD CRAWL OUT TO INFEST OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT, OUR GOVERNMENT, AND OUR VERY NEIGHBORHOODS!
AND THIS PARTICULAR RACE IS A PERPETUAL, UNCHANGING, AND UNCHANGEABLE ALIEN ELEMENT THAT CAN NEVER TRULY BE A PART OF US!
THEIR CULTURE IS DEMORALIZING AND DEGRADING TO OUR PEOPLE! THEY CAN NEVER BECOME ONE HUNDRED PERCENT AMERICANS!
AND SO WE LOYAL KNIGHTS OF THE KLAN OF THE FIERY KROSS MUST PROCLAIM...
ONE RACE! ONE COLOR! ONE RELIGION!
THEY... THEY'VE GOT THE WRONG IDEA ABOUT US, IS ALL! I'LL GO OUT EXPLAIN TO THEM—
ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?! CALL THE POLICE!
IN ENGLISH, DEAR!
TO HELL WITH YOUR ENGLISH!

TOMMY! NO!
YOU'RE ONLY GOING TO MAKE THINGS WORSE, SON!
THIS IS OUR HOME! THEY GOT NO RIGHT TO BE HERE!
GROWN MEN, PLAYING DRESS-UP AND BURNING CAMPFIRES ON OTHER PEOPLE'S LAWNS? YOU OUGHTA BE ASHAMED!
GET OUTTA HERE BEFORE I CRACK YOUR HEADS OPEN!
WE CAME MERELY TO WARN YOU, ALIEN! YOU FORCE US TO DO MORE!
NEW INITIATE, HAND ME YOUR TORCH!
BUT—
LGGG...
NEW INITIATE, SHOW THESE NON-AMERICANS WE MEAN BUSINESS!
BUT, GRAND SCORPION, MAYBE THIS ISN'T...
THROW IT NOW!
GFN!

BOUNCE!
HE'S GOT ON RED BOOTS.
BOUNCE...
bounce...
bounce...
OH NO...!
RUN FOR COVER!
BOOOM!

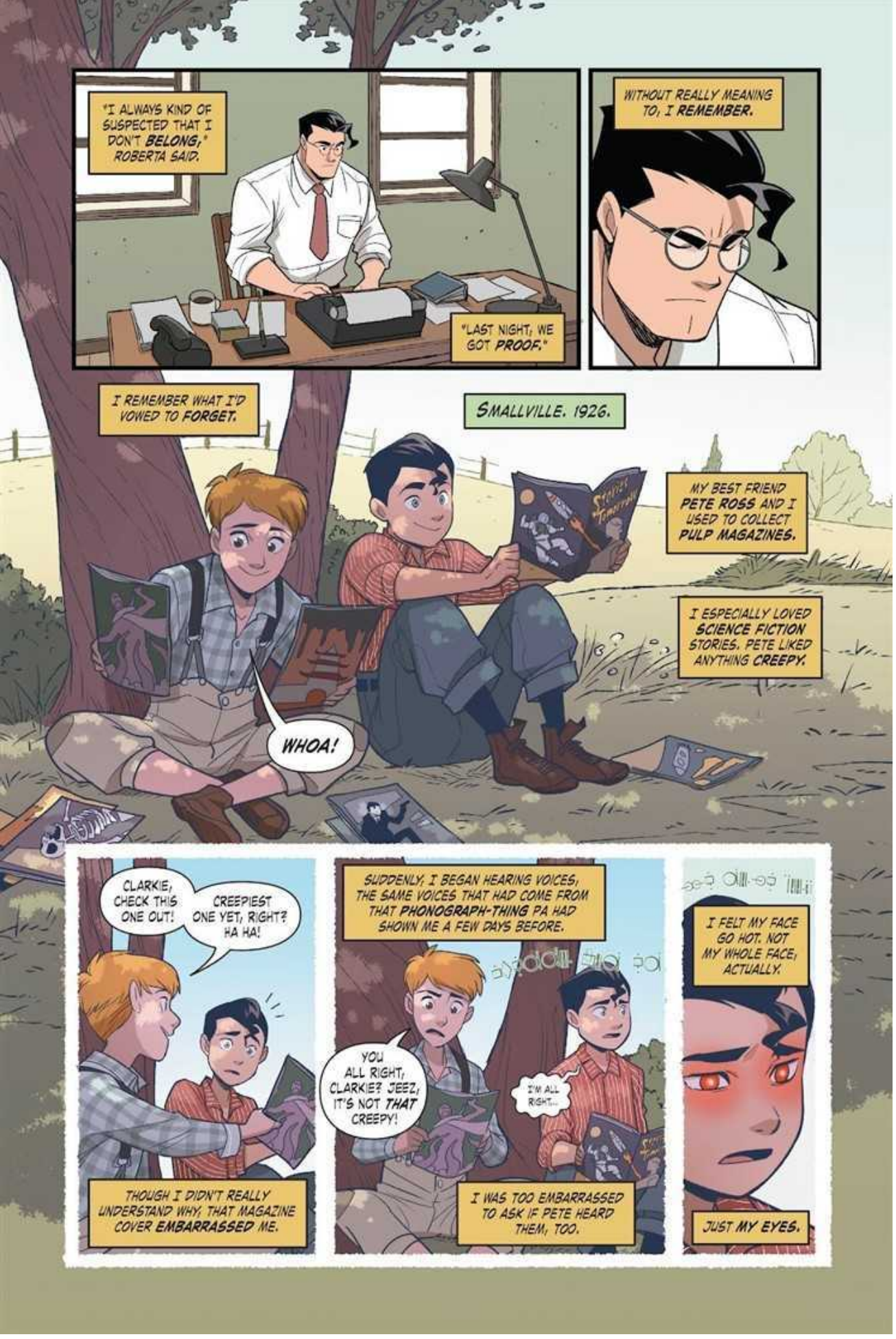

YOU IMBECILE! HOW COULD YOU MISS THE WINDOW?!
I, UH...
IT'S... IT'S THE HOOD! THE HOOD GOT IN THE WAY!
THE FIRE'S OUTTA CONTROL!
FALL BACK, LOYAL KNIGHTS! WE'VE MADE OUR MESSAGE LOUD AND CLEAR!
GRAB BUCKETS! WE GOTTA PUT IT OUT BEFORE IT REACHES THE HOUSE!
TOMMY!
GOOD LORD! A CROSS-BURNING?! HERE IN METROPOLIS?!
YOUNG MAN! YOU GOT A HOSE?!
I SAW ONE AT THE NEIGHBOR'S!
NO, NO! THIS JUST KEEPS GETTING WORSE AND WORSE!

YOU! NOBODY ASKED YOU TO COME HERE! WE DON'T WANT ANY MORE TROUBLE! GET OUT OF HERE!
DAD, THEY'RE TRYING TO HELP!
TROUBLE FOUND YOU, MISTER! WE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!
NOT HOW I IMAGINED A NIGHT OUT ON THE TOWN WOULD END.
LIKE MY GRANDMA USED TO SAY, NO GOOD DEED GOES UNPUNISHED.
APOLOGIES, BUT CAN YOU FELLAS FIND YOUR OWN WAY HOME? I NEED TO STAY.
YOU HEARD THAT CHINESE GUY, BILL!
THEY DON'T WANT US AROUND, NOT EVEN WHEN THEIR HOUSE IS ON FIRE!
THEY GOT A BURNING CROSS ON THEIR LAWN, DON'T THEY?
FOR TONIGHT, AT LEAST, THEY ARE US.
EVEN IF THEY DON'T WANT TO ADMIT IT.
SIR, I ASKED YOU TO LEAVE US—
OH...!
I'M— I'M—PLEASE FORGIVE ME! I DIDN'T KNOW...
I'M INSPECTOR WILLIAM HENDERSON OF THE METROPOLIS POLICE DEPARTMENT.
HOW ABOUT YOU FOLKS TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED?

THE NEXT MORNING...
LOIS! YOU'RE HERE!
MY TURN TO GET COFFEE.
THANKS. UM, CLARK? NO OFFENSE, BUT DID YOU GET ANY SLEEP AT ALL LAST NIGHT? YOUR FACE LOOKS LIKE IT'S BEEN RUN OVER BY A TRUCK.
YOU'RE WELCOME FOR THE COFFEE, LOIS.
PERRY SENT ME HERE WITHOUT TELLING ME WHY. ANY IDEAS WHAT—
GREAT SCOTT!
OUR MOST RECOGNIZABLE SYMBOL OF HATE...
...RIGHT HERE IN METROPOLIS.
MS. LANE! MR. KENT! MR. WHITE GOT MY MESSAGE TO YOU!
NO WAY, JIMMY, YOU KNOW LOIS LANE AND CLARK KENT?!
SURE. DIDN'T I TELL YOU? I'M A CUB REPORTER AT THE DAILY PLANET!
I'D HEARD OF METROPOLIS'S TWO MOST FAMOUS REPORTERS, OF COURSE. ANYONE WHO'S READ THE PAPER HAS. BUT TO ACTUALLY SEE THEM IN PERSON?
WILD. NEVER WOULD'VE HAPPENED IN CHINATOWN.

I'M CLARK KENT, REPORTER FOR THE DAILY PLANET.
I-I'M ROBERTA LEE.
HOW'RE YOU HOLDING UP?
ALL RIGHT — COLD — A LITTLE —
...
I MEAN, I'M ALL RIGHT. JUST A LITTLE COLD.
HOW ABOUT YOU BORROW MY JACKET. THAT BETTER?
YEAH.
FOR REASONS I CAN'T QUITE PUT MY FINGER ON, CLARK KENT SEEMS ODDLY FAMILIAR.
Y'KNOW, I ALWAYS KIND OF SUSPECTED THAT I DON'T BELONG.
LAST NIGHT, WE GOT PROOF.
HUSBAND, WE HAVE TO MOVE BACK TO CHINATOWN!
DEAR, WE'RE NOT MOVING AWAY OVER A MISUNDERSTANDING! WE JUST HAVE TO SHOW THEM WE'RE NOT WHAT THEY THINK WE ARE!
YOU HAVE TO DO WHAT'S BEST FOR YOUR FAMILY, OF COURSE; BUT YOU LEAVING IS EXACTLY WHAT THOSE BIGOTS WANT!
IF IT HELPS AT ALL WITH YOUR DECISION, I CAN HAVE A SQUAD CAR IN FRONT OF YOUR HOUSE 24/7.
I CAN'T BELIEVE DAD TOOK THE TIME TO PUT ON HIS LAB COAT.
ROBERTA... WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I DON'T SEE HOW WE CAN STAY. NOT AFTER THIS.
IT MUST'VE BEEN AWFUL LAST NIGHT.

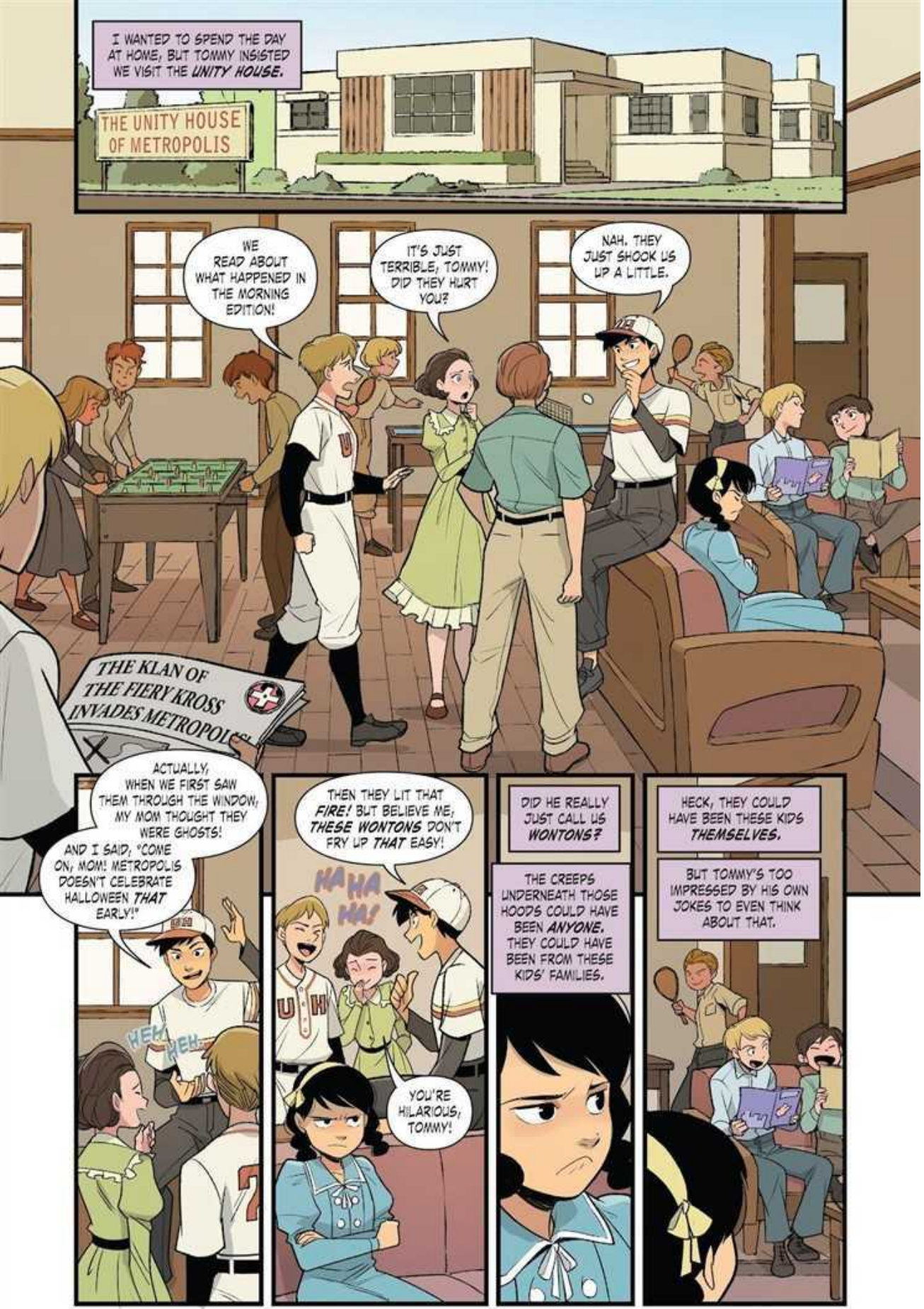
I CAN'T IMAGINE. BUT SHOULD YOUR FAMILY CHOOSE TO STAY, ROBERTA, MR. KENT AND I WILL FIGHT FOR YOU, ONE HUNDRED PERCENT.
THE MEN WHO DID THIS WANT TO KEEP THEIR IDENTITIES SECRET, AND EXPOSING SECRETS IS OUR BUSINESS.
UNLIKE MR. KENT, LOIS LANE IS DECIDEDLY NOT FAMILIAR.
SO SURE OF HERSELF...I'VE NEVER MET ANYONE LIKE HER.
SOMEONE TOLD ME RECENTLY, IF YOU UNCOVER ENOUGH SECRETS ABOUT A PLACE, IT BECOMES HOME.
NOT BAD ADVICE.
COME ON, CLARK. LET'S GO SEE WHAT THE INSPECTOR CAN TELL US.
UNCOVER ENOUGH SECRETS AND YOU MAKE A HOME.
HUH.
THAT'S NOT BAD ADVICE AT ALL, ROBERTA.
MA, DAD... I WANT TO STAY.

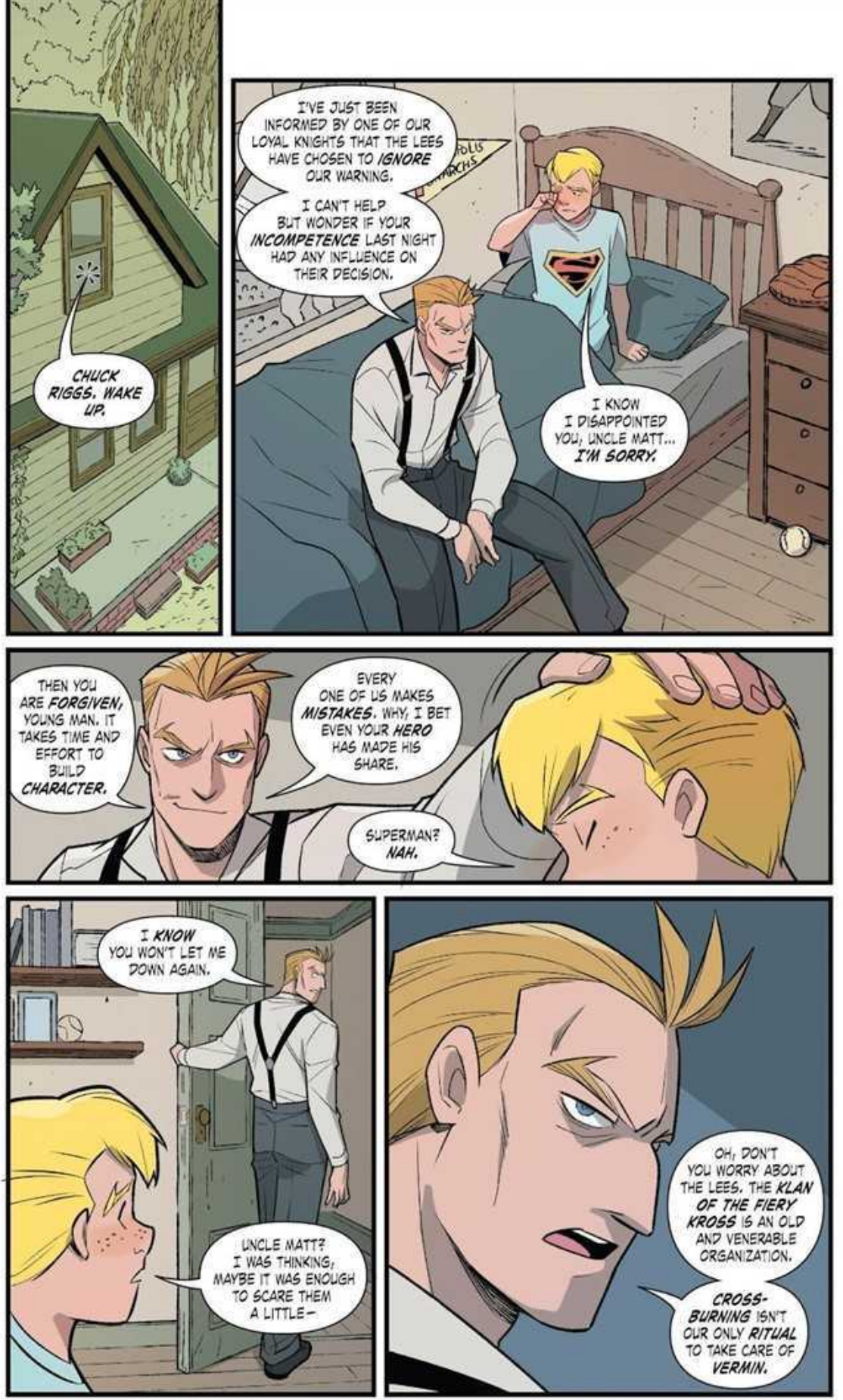

"I ALWAYS KIND OF SUSPECTED THAT I DON'T BELONG," ROBERTA SAID.
"LAST NIGHT, WE GOT PROOF."
WITHOUT REALLY MEANING TO, I REMEMBER.
I REMEMBER WHAT I'D VOWED TO FORGET.
SMALLVILLE. 1926.
MY BEST FRIEND PETE ROSS AND I USED TO COLLECT PULP MAGAZINES.
I ESPECIALLY LOVED SCIENCE FICTION STORIES. PETE LIKED ANYTHING CREEPY.
WHOA!
CLARKIE, CHECK THIS ONE OUT!
CREEPIEST ONE YET, RIGHT? HA HA!
THOUGH I DIDN'T REALLY UNDERSTAND WHY, THAT MAGAZINE COVER EMBARRASSED ME.
SUDDENLY, I BEGAN HEARING VOICES, THE SAME VOICES THAT HAD COME FROM THAT PHONOGRAPH-THING PA HAD SHOWN ME A FEW DAYS BEFORE.
YOU ALL RIGHT, CLARKIE? JEEZ, IT'S NOT THAT CREEPY!
I'M ALL RIGHT...
I WAS TOO EMBARRASSED TO ASK IF PETE HEARD THEM, TOO.
I FELT MY FACE GO HOT. NOT MY WHOLE FACE, ACTUALLY.
JUST MY EYES.

KYLE, CHECK THIS OUT!
WHAT KINDA LOSERS READ THIS STUFF?
HEY! YOU GIVE THAT BACK!
STOP...
KYLE AND KENNY BRAVERMAN WERE THE NEIGHBORHOOD BULLIES.
OUR DAD SAYS THESE SORTSA MAGAZINES ROT A KID'S BRAIN!
WE'RE GONNA DO YOU A FAVOR, LOSER!
NO!
HNN...
KYLE, YOU SEE THAT? THE LOSER TRIED TO PUNCH ME!
WE'LL HAFTA TEACH HIM A LESSON!
NO! LEMME GO!
PLEASE...
RNN...
LEAVE HIM ALONE...
RGH...
CLARKIE? ARE YOU...
FLYING?
I SAID...
RFF...

LEAVE HIM ALONE!
ZZZZAAAAPPPPPPRKTTTT!
AAAH!

HUFF
HUFF
PETE...
WHUH...
WHUH...
WHAT—
YOU OKAY?
G-G-GET AWAY FROM ME!
I, TOO, ALWAYS SUSPECTED THAT I DIDN'T BELONG.
ALIEN TALES
THAT DAY, I GOT PROOF.


I WANTED TO SPEND THE DAY AT HOME, BUT TOMMY INSISTED WE VISIT THE UNITY HOUSE.
THE UNITY HOUSE OF METROPOLIS
WE READ ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED IN THE MORNING EDITION!
IT'S JUST TERRIBLE, TOMMY! DID THEY HURT YOU?
NAH. THEY JUST SHOOK US UP A LITTLE.
THE KLAN OF THE FIERY KROSS INVADES METROPOL
ACTUALLY, WHEN WE FIRST SAW THEM THROUGH THE WINDOW, MY MOM THOUGHT THEY WERE GHOSTS!
AND I SAID, "COME ON, MOM! METROPOLIS DOESN'T CELEBRATE HALLOWEEN THAT EARLY!"
HEH HEH
THEN THEY LIT THAT FIRE! BUT BELIEVE ME, THESE WONTONS DON'T FRY UP THAT EASY!
HA HA HA!
YOU'RE HILARIOUS, TOMMY!
DID HE REALLY JUST CALL US WONTONS?
THE CREEPS UNDERNEATH THOSE HOODS COULD HAVE BEEN ANYONE. THEY COULD HAVE BEEN FROM THESE KIDS' FAMILIES.
HECK, THEY COULD HAVE BEEN THESE KIDS THEMSELVES.
BUT TOMMY'S TOO IMPRESSED BY HIS OWN JOKES TO EVEN THINK ABOUT THAT.


CHUCK RIGGS. WAKE UP.
I'VE JUST BEEN INFORMED BY ONE OF OUR LOYAL KNIGHTS THAT THE LEES HAVE CHOSEN TO IGNORE OUR WARNING.
I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER IF YOUR INCOMPETENCE LAST NIGHT HAD ANY INFLUENCE ON THEIR DECISION.
I KNOW I DISAPPOINTED YOU, UNCLE MATT... I'M SORRY.
THEN YOU ARE FORGIVEN, YOUNG MAN. IT TAKES TIME AND EFFORT TO BUILD CHARACTER.
EVERY ONE OF US MAKES MISTAKES. WHY, I BET EVEN YOUR HERO HAS MADE HIS SHARE.
SUPERMAN? NAH.
I KNOW YOU WON'T LET ME DOWN AGAIN.
UNCLE MATT? I WAS THINKING, MAYBE IT WAS ENOUGH TO SCARE THEM A LITTLE—
OH, DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT THE LEES. THE KLAN OF THE FIERY KROSS IS AN OLD AND VENERABLE ORGANIZATION.
CROSS-BURNING ISN'T OUR ONLY RITUAL TO TAKE CARE OF VERMIN.

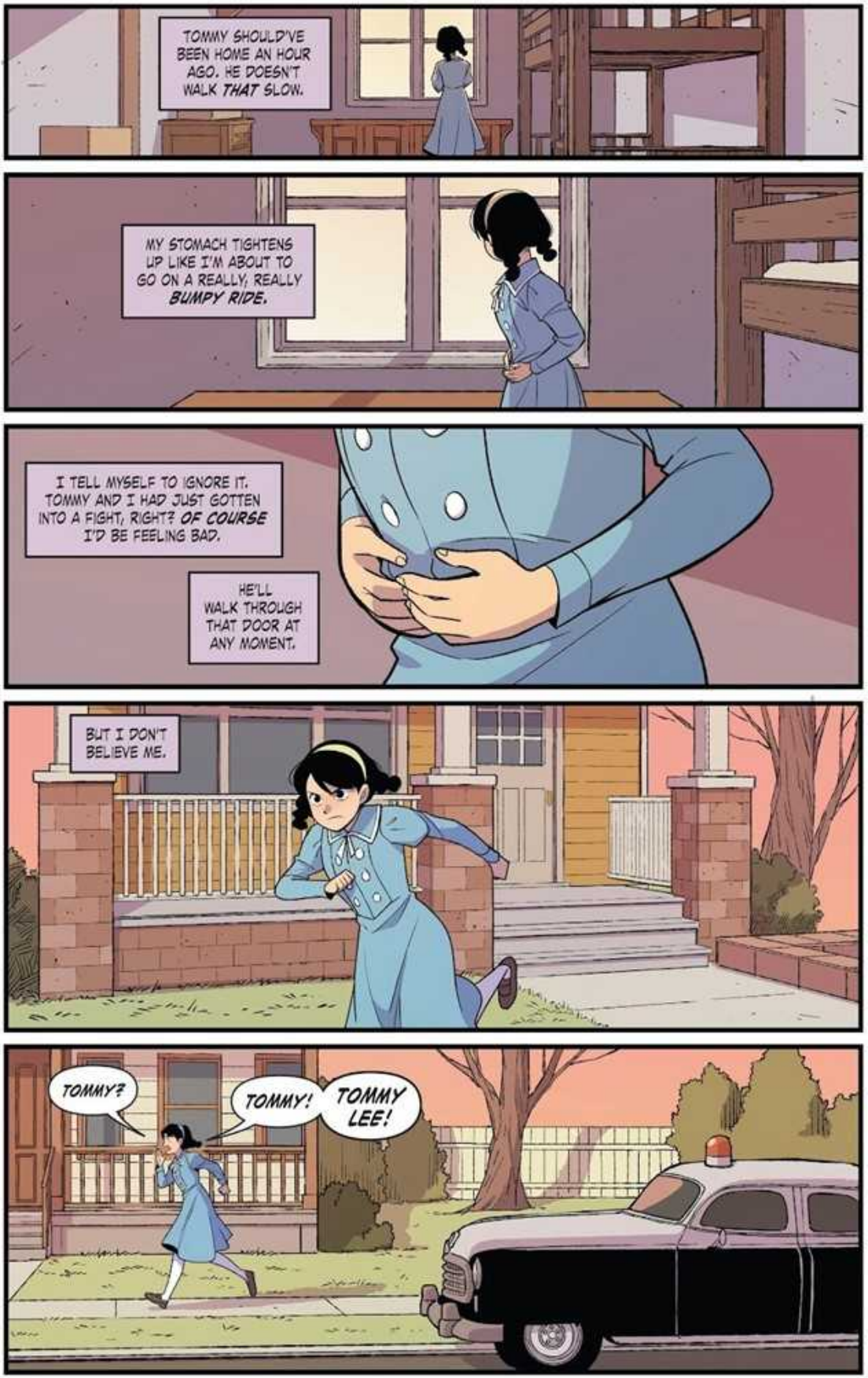
THOSE UNITY HOUSE KIDS ARE PRETTY GREAT, AREN'T THEY?
I GUESS.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
I DON'T KNOW...
I MISS CHINATOWN.
A WORD OF ADVICE, SIS? YOU'LL NEVER BE HAPPY IN METROPOLIS IF YOU KEEP PINING AFTER CHINATOWN.
PSH. AT LEAST THERE, YOU WEREN'T SO FAKE.
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!
"THESE WONTONS DON'T FRY UP THAT EASY!"
ANYTHING TO FIT IN, RIGHT, TOMMY?!
YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR PROBLEM IS?!
I'M SURE YOU CAN'T WAIT TO TELL ME!

YOU'RE ALWAYS THINKING ABOUT HOW YOU DON'T FIT IN!
MAYBE IF YOU WEREN'T SO STUCK UP ABOUT BEING DIFFERENT, YOU'D START MAKING FRIENDS HERE, TOO!
OH, DON'T YOU START CRYING ON ME!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO STARTED IT, CALLING ME FAKE!
GO AHEAD AND WALK HOME BY YOURSELF!
SEE IF I CARE!

ELSEWHERE IN METROPOLIS.
THE RESULTS ARE IN.
THE GREEN CRYSTAL WE EXTRACTED FROM THE GERMAN'S POWER SOURCE IS, IN FACT, EXTRATERRESTRIAL IN ORIGIN.
THOSE NAZI EGGHEADS KNEW WHAT THEY WERE DOING, I'LL GIVE 'EM THAT.
WE MAY HAVE BEATEN THEM IN THE WAR, BUT THEY BEAT US TO THE CITY'S—PERHAPS THE WORLD'S—GREATEST SECRET!

CALL ME FAKE, WILL YA...
GRUMBLE GRUMBLE
YOUNG MAN.
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE A LONG WAY FROM WHERE YOU BELONG. CAN WE GIVE YOU A RIDE?
THAT'S GENEROUS OF YOU, SIR, BUT NO THANKS.
MY HOUSE IS JUST UP AHEAD.
UH

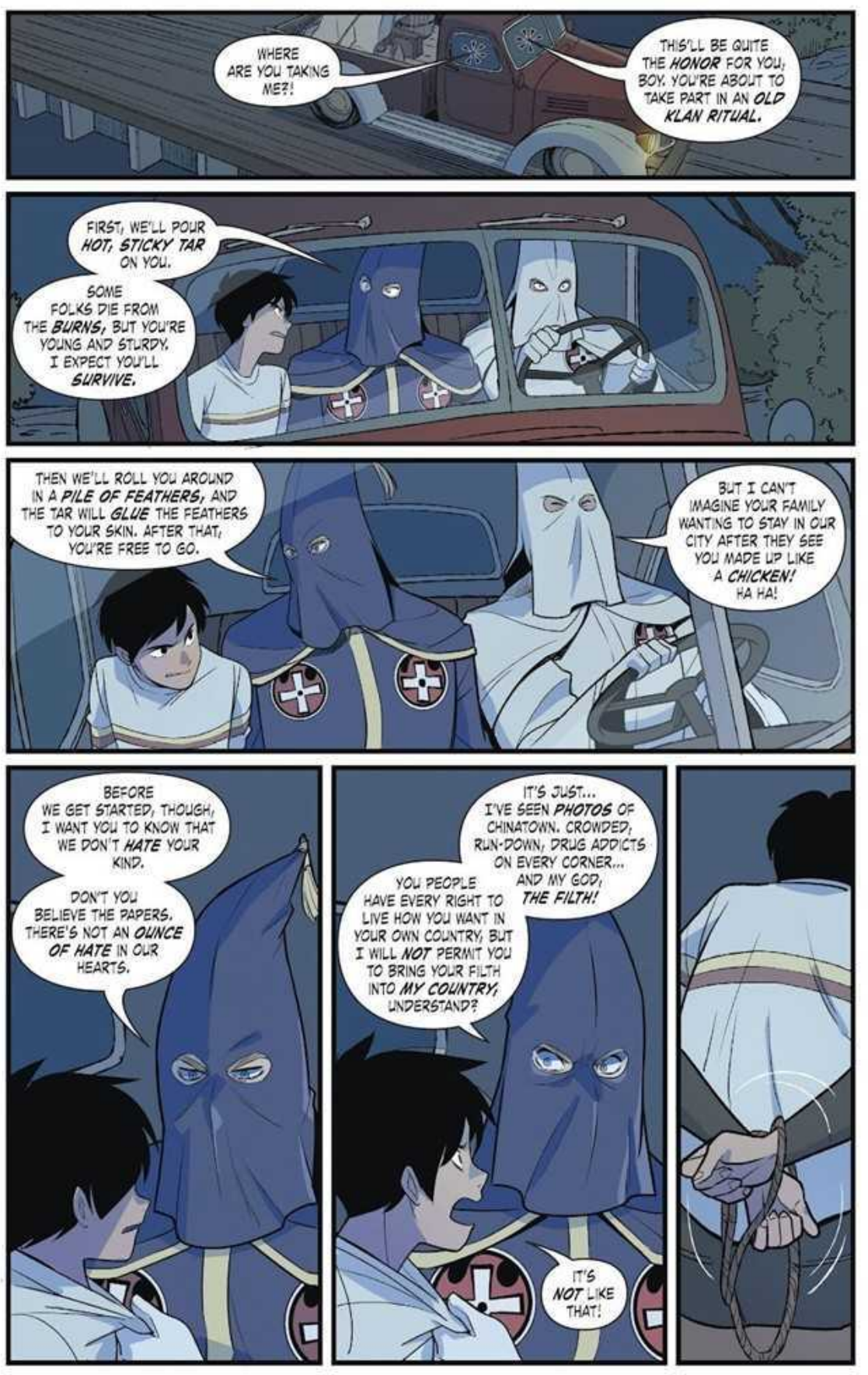
A CHING-CHONG LIVING IN A NEIGHBORHOOD LIKE THIS?
YOU DON'T SAY.
!


TOMMY SHOULD'VE BEEN HOME AN HOUR AGO. HE DOESN'T WALK *THAT* SLOW.
MY STOMACH TIGHTENS UP LIKE I'M ABOUT TO GO ON A REALLY, REALLY *BUMPY RIDE.*
I TELL MYSELF TO IGNORE IT. TOMMY AND I HAD JUST GOTTEN INTO A FIGHT, RIGHT? *OF COURSE* I'D BE FEELING BAD.
HE'LL WALK THROUGH THAT DOOR AT ANY MOMENT.
BUT I DON'T BELIEVE ME.
TOMMY?
TOMMY!
TOMMY LEE!

GASP!
UH
OFFICER! OFFICER!
YOU GOTTA HELP ME!
MY BROTHER, TOMMY LEE—I THINK SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAPPENED TO HIM!
OH, I DOUBT THAT, LITTLE GIRL.
THIS CITY IS VERY, VERY SAFE, ESPECIALLY FOR PEOPLE LIKE YOU.
METROPOLIS GOES OUT OF ITS WAY FOR YOU, GIVING YOU HOUSES AND JOBS AND PROMOTIONS YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO EARN—
UH
—ALL BECAUSE IT WANTS TO BE THE BLASTED LEAGUE OF NATIONS OR SOMETHING.

THE DAILY PLANET.
DING!
JIMMY! ARE YOU HERE?!
CAN I SEE JIMMY OLSEN, PLEASE?!
ROBERTA?!
TOMMY DIDN'T COME HOME, JIMMY! I WENT TO LOOK FOR HIM AND FOUND THIS ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD!
HE LOVES THIS BASEBALL CAP! HE WOULD NEVER JUST LEAVE IT LIKE THAT!
AW, JEEZ...!
I WANT TO KNOW WHERE CHUCK RIGGS LIVES!
NOW, WAIT A MINUTE...I KNOW HE'S A SOREHEAD AND ALL, BUT YOU DON'T THINK—
TAKE ME TO HIM! PLEASE!

MY SCOOTER'S PARKED IN THE BACK!
GREAT CAESAR'S GHOST—! OLSEN! WHAT'D I TELL YOU ABOUT RUNNING IN MY OFFICE?!
BUMP!
SORRY, CHIEF! WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN!
AND WHAT'D I TELL YOU ABOUT CALLING ME CHIEF?!
THAT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN EITHER, CHIEF—
I MEAN, MR. WHITE!
KENT! THAT GIRL WITH OLSEN...ISN'T SHE ONE OF THE LEES, FROM THE FRONT PAGE THIS MORNING?
I BELIEVE THAT WAS ROBERTA LEE, DR. LEE'S DAUGHTER.
WELL, WHAT AM I PAYING YOU FOR, KENT?! GO FIGURE OUT WHAT THEIR STORY IS!
RIGHT AWAY, CHIEF!
WHAT'D I JUST SAY ABOUT CALLING ME CHIEF?!


WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?!
THIS'LL BE QUITE THE HONOR FOR YOU, BOY. YOU'RE ABOUT TO TAKE PART IN AN OLD KLAN RITUAL.
FIRST, WE'LL POUR HOT, STICKY TAR ON YOU.
SOME FOLKS DIE FROM THE BURNS, BUT YOU'RE YOUNG AND STURDY. I EXPECT YOU'LL SURVIVE.
THEN WE'LL ROLL YOU AROUND IN A PILE OF FEATHERS, AND THE TAR WILL GLUE THE FEATHERS TO YOUR SKIN. AFTER THAT, YOU'RE FREE TO GO.
BUT I CAN'T IMAGINE YOUR FAMILY WANTING TO STAY IN OUR CITY AFTER THEY SEE YOU MADE UP LIKE A CHICKEN! HA HA!
BEFORE WE GET STARTED, THOUGH, I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT WE DON'T HATE YOUR KIND.
DON'T YOU BELIEVE THE PAPERS. THERE'S NOT AN OUNCE OF HATE IN OUR HEARTS.
IT'S JUST... I'VE SEEN PHOTOS OF CHINATOWN. CROWDED, RUN-DOWN, DRUG ADDICTS ON EVERY CORNER... AND MY GOD, THE FILTH!
YOU PEOPLE HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO LIVE HOW YOU WANT IN YOUR OWN COUNTRY, BUT I WILL NOT PERMIT YOU TO BRING YOUR FILTH INTO MY COUNTRY, UNDERSTAND?
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!

WHAM!
GFK!
SCREEECH!
OW
OW
OW
WHUMP!
OW
WHY THAT LITTLE—
HE COULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN FAR!
THERE, GRAND SCORPION!

HUFF
HUFF
LEAVE ME ALONE!
DID YOU HURT YOUR ARM, ALIEN? COME OVER HERE AND LET ME TAKE A LOOK.
BLASTED—!
SPLASH!
NO! I—!
GLRGL-
GLRGL-
HA! WITH HIS ARM ALL BUSTED UP, THAT CHING-CHONG'S AS GOOD AS FINISHED!
YES, HE IS. LET'S HEAD BACK.

LOIS LANE SAID EXPOSING SECRETS IS HER BUSINESS.
TOMMY! TOMMY! MY FRIEND!
IT HAS TO BE MY BUSINESS NOW, TOO.
CHINA GIRL...?
MY NAME IS ROBERTA!
TOMMY WENT MISSING! TELL ME WHAT YOU KNOW!
WHAT?! WHAT MAKES YOU THINK—
I KNOW YOU WERE AT OUR HOUSE LAST NIGHT!
I KNOW YOU WERE THE ONE WHO THREW THE BOMB!
Y-YOU'RE CRAZY!
YOU SHOULD'VE TAKEN OFF YOUR RED BOOTS BEFORE PUTTING ON THAT ROBE, CHUCK.

GET OFF MY PROPERTY!
COME ON, CHUCK! THIS IS SERIOUS!
YOU TWO THINK YOU CAN JUST MARCH UP TO MY HOUSE AND LEVEL FALSE ACCUSATIONS AT ME?
PUT THE BAT DOWN, YOU LUNATIC!
YOU GOT ANOTHER THING COMIN'!
GET OFF MY PROPERTY!
KRACK!
NOT UNTIL YOU TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED TO MY BROTHER!
I'M WARNING YOU!
KRACK!
NO... I DIDN'T MEAN TO ACTUALLY HIT—

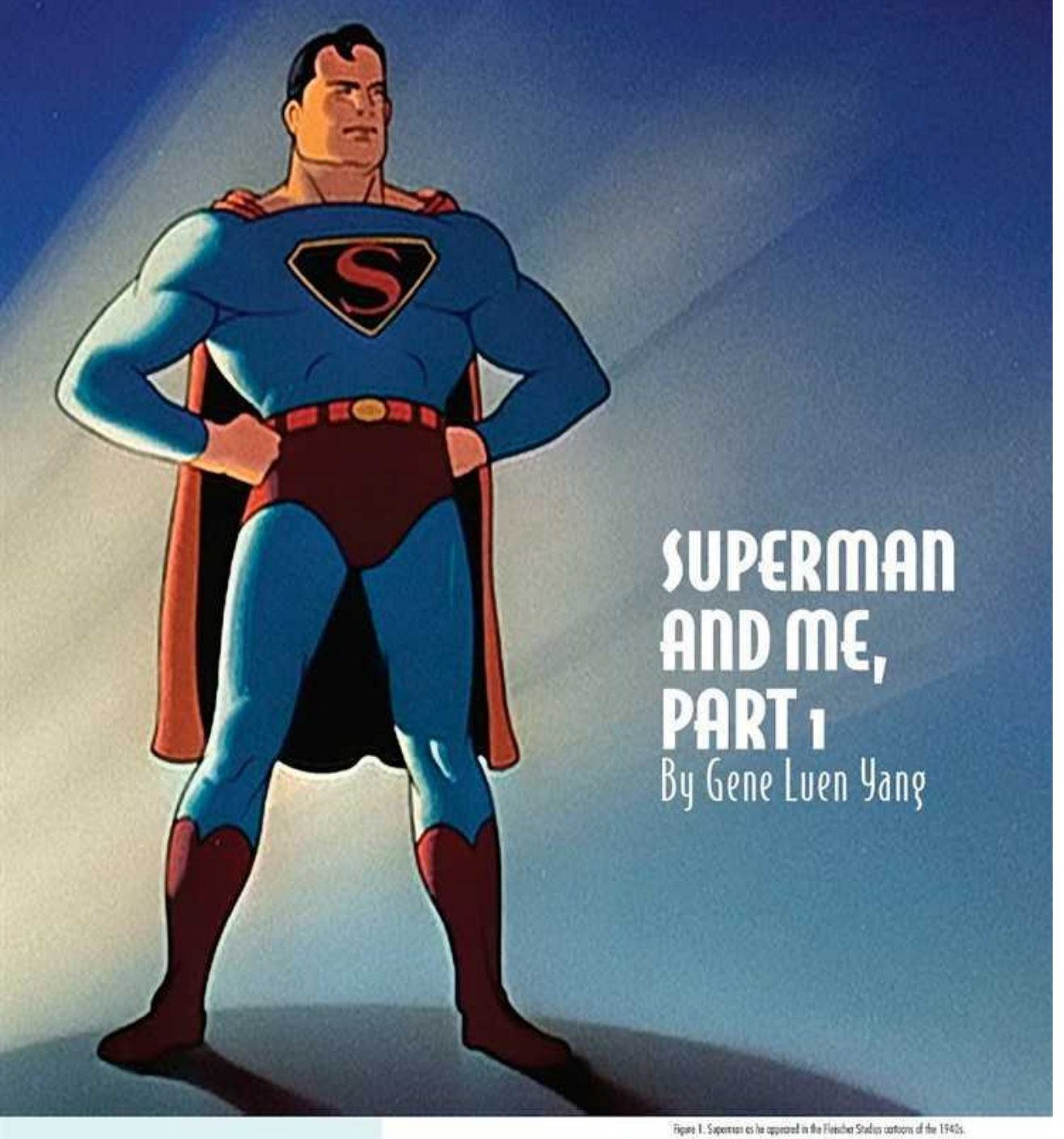
SUPERMAN?!

HIYA, SUPERMAN!
HE'S EVEN BIGGER UP CLOSE.
SUPERMAN! I SWEAR I DIDN'T MEAN TO—
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT...?
BETTER THAN YOUR BAT, KID. YOU COULD'VE REALLY HURT SOMEONE!
TELL ME YOUR NAME.
CHUCK RIGGS.
W-WOULD YOU BELIEVE I'M YOUR BIGGEST FAN?
SO THAT'S WHY YOU WEAR THOSE RED BOOTS!
I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND ME EAVESDROPPING, CHUCK.
BUT IT SEEMS TO ME THAT, IF YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP ANOTHER PERSON, YOU OUGHT TO AT LEAST TRY.
...

I...
I KNOW WHERE THE KLAN OF THE FIERY KROSS DOES ITS RITUALS. I CAN SHOW YOU.
MAYBE THEY TOOK TOMMY THERE?
LET'S GO! WE'RE TALKING ABOUT MY BROTHER'S LIFE HERE!
I CAN TAKE YOU; BUT I'LL HAVE TO CARRY ONE OF YOU UNDER EACH ARM. IT'LL BE AWKWARD.
YOU KNOW THAT LITTLE WOODEN BRIDGE JUST OUTSIDE THE CITY? WE SHOULD HEAD THAT WAY.
JIMMY, CAN YOU GO TELL INSPECTOR HENDERSON WHAT WE'RE UP TO?
YOU BET, SUPERMAN!
YOU TWO READY?
YEAH.
READY.
I'M ROBERTA LEE, BY THE WAY. TOMMY'S SISTER.
HANG TIGHT, ROBERTA.

"LET'S GO FIND YOUR BROTHER."

YOU KNOW HOW I TOLD SUPERMAN THAT I WAS READY?
COMPLETE LIE.
I THINK I'M GOING TO BE SICK.
TO BE CONTINUED!



SUPERMAN AND ME, PART 1

By Gene Luen Yang

Figure 1. Superman as he appeared in the Fleischer Studios cartoons of the 1940s.

In 1946, Superman took down a gang of robed, hooded white supremacists. He did it over sixteen episodes of *The Adventures of Superman*, America's most popular radio show at the time. The plot went something like this: A Chinese American family moves to Metropolis. The Clan of the Fiery Cross, fictional stand-ins for the real-life Ku Klux Klan, burns a tall wooden cross on the family's lawn. Superman leaps to the family's defense.

When I first heard about it, I thought, "A Chinese American family? Neat!" I've watched and read Superman stories since I was little. I wasn't used to finding characters in them who looked like me.

Figure 2. Portrait of an African American Union soldier and his family, taken between 1863 and 1865. Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-DIG-ppmsca-36454.

In January of 1865, when the bloody Civil War was nearing its end, the federal government of the United States passed the Thirteenth Amendment, which abolished slavery except as a way to punish crime.

Later that same year, a group of men gathered together in Tennessee for the very first meeting of the Ku Klux Klan. These men believed in white supremacy, the idea that people from Western and Northern Europe are just plain better than all other kinds of people. They feared that the newly freed black slaves would ask for equal rights and equal treatment.

The Klan terrorized African Americans and their white allies not just in Tennessee, but all across the South. They issued threats, burned down churches, and murdered countless people.

I can't remember when I first discovered Superman. Was it the classic 1978 movie starring Christopher Reeve? Or the old *Super Friends* cartoon? Or the Superman puzzle book I bought at a school book fair in the first grade?

I don't know for sure. He seems to have always been there.

I liked his powers, of course, but I loved his costume. The emblem on his chest looked like a badge, or maybe a shield. It told everybody that he was Superman, and that was awesome.

In 1865, white supremacists in California read newspaper articles about the Ku Klux Klan in the South. They felt inspired. Few African Americans lived on the West Coast, but plenty of Chinese did.

People who looked like me first began coming to America in large numbers at the beginning of the 1800s. By the time the Civil War ended, Chinese made up ten percent of California's population, and more were coming.

The federal government was already making noise about granting African Americans the right to vote. If they did the same for Chinese immigrants, what would become of white supremacy in the West?

In 1868, a missive appeared in the San Francisco Bay Area calling the Ku Klux Klan to "Action! Action! Action!" Soon after, Klansmen started terrorizing Chinese immigrants and their white allies not just in California, but up and down the West Coast. They issued threats, burned down churches, and murdered countless people.

The terrorism in the West was never as widespread nor as organized as the terrorism in the South, but it was still terrifying. The largest mass lynching in California's history happened in Los Angeles Chinatown in 1871. A mob rampaged through a Chinatown street known as Negro Alley. Although the mob did not explicitly claim to be the Klan, they definitely acted Klan-like. They hanged to death between seventeen and twenty Chinese men and boys.

I've never had a run-in with the Ku Klux Klan. The racism I encountered as a kid wasn't nearly as dramatic as a fiery cross. It was quiet and subtle.

In the seventh grade, I wrote a story about Cobra Commander's death. Cobra Commander is the archenemy of G.I. Joe, a team of superhero soldiers who ruled after-school cartoons in the 1980s.

Mr. Stevens, my teacher, liked my story so much that he read it to the whole class. He ended in his most ominous voice, "As Cobra Commander breathed his last, he hissed, 'G.I. Joe has won!'"

The other students clapped. I tried to keep my smile as humble as possible.

"G.I. Joe," one of my classmates said to me. "Cool story."

We'll call him Danny. Danny was broad-shouldered, hazel-eyed, and athletic. He wore clothes that you saw on billboards. And he never tied his shoes, which everybody thought was awesome.

He gave me a thumbs-up. My smile stopped being humble.

Figure 3. My little brother and me in our awesome 1980s outfits. Used with permission of Gene Luen Yang.

Later in P.E., I saw Danny standing on the soccer field. He'd actually talked to me, I thought. I ought to return the favor.

I walked up to him. "Hey, Danny," I said.

"Hey," he said. "G.I. Joe. Cool story, man! High five!"

He put his hand up.

As soon as I reached for it, he pulled back.

"I'm not touching no..." Then Danny said a word that rhymes with "stink."

I watched his shoelaces drag along the grass as he walked away.

Figure 4. Portrait of a Chinese American family, taken between 1898 and 1905. Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-DIG-ppmsca-36454.

After the Civil War, white supremacist politicians in the South began enacting Black Codes, laws that made sure African Americans would remain second-class citizens. Although the Fifteenth Amendment granted African American men the right to vote, the codes kept them out of the voting booth. They also kept them out of white neighborhoods, schools, churches, and even restrooms. The codes became popularly known as Jim Crow laws.

White supremacists in the West came up with an even more clever tactic. They saw that the federal government no longer tolerated slavery, so they began to argue that Chinese immigrants were actually slaves. They pointed out that the Chinese worked in terrible, slave-like conditions. If America really wanted to get rid of slavery, they said, the country had to close its borders to the Chinese.

Their argument was ridiculous. Chinese immigrants did live unquestionably difficult lives. They were often the victims of brutal, unfair contracts, and they couldn't fight back because their testimony wasn't recognized in American courts.

But as bad as things were, they weren't slaves. Nobody could sell off their loved ones at a moment's notice.

Even so, the tactic worked. In 1882, America passed the Chinese Exclusion Act, effectively ending all legal immigration from China to the United States.

By the end of the 1800s, with Jim Crow laws and the Chinese Exclusion Act in place, the Ku Klux Klan no longer felt threatened by African Americans in the South or Chinese immigrants in the West. People stopped joining, and their membership shrank.

Shortly after the incident with Danny, I started pestering my mom to take me to the local mall. One Saturday afternoon, she finally did. I made a beeline for a store called Aca Joe that sold clothes you saw on billboards.

I picked out a bright white sweatshirt with the store's logo on the chest, the letters ACA stenciled in an oval. It looked like a badge, or maybe a shield.

I silently hoped that it would protect me from that word that rhymes with "stink."

It did not.

In 1915, a movie called *The Birth of a Nation* opened in theaters all across America. It portrays the Ku Klux Klan as a team of white supremacist "heroes" who hide their identities underneath robes and hoods while "defending" the country against the "threat" of the newly freed slaves. In one scene, Klansmen burn a tall wooden cross, a fiery symbol of their hatred. The real-life Klan had never done this before.

The movie was a hit. Audiences flocked to see it. Companies sold Klan-themed merchandise like hats and aprons. Fans hosted Klan-themed parties and invited their friends to come dressed up as Klansmen. *The Birth of a Nation* made between $50 and $100 million, making it the first-ever blockbuster movie. Even President Woodrow Wilson was a fan. After watching the film at a special screening at the White House, he described it admiringly as "writing history with lightning."

Within a few months, the Ku Klux Klan was back in business. And this time, they *were* a business. They hired a publicity agency to help them make as much money as possible.

One of their strategies was to expand their circle of hate to include more kinds of people. The new Klan didn't just hate African Americans and Chinese immigrants, they also hated Mexicans, Middle Easterners, Japanese, and Filipinos, as well as Roman Catholics and Jews from Eastern and Southern Europe.

Although they continued the Klan tradition of violence, the second Klan started hosting family-friendly events like picnics and parades to attract new members. Taking a cue from the movie, they burned tall wooden crosses at their events.

The second Ku Klux Klan was a hit. At its peak, it had several million dues-paying members.

To be continued in *Superman Smashes the Klan* part two!

The story continues in

SUPERMAN SMASHES THE KLAN PART TWO!

On sale December 18!

The year is 1946, and the Lee family has just moved from Chinatown to the center of Metropolis. While Dr. Lee is looking forward to his new job, his two kids, Roberta and Tommy, are more excited about being close to the famous hero Superman!

Tommy adjusts quickly to the new neighborhood while Roberta feels awkward and out of place. Then one night, the family awakens to find a burning cross on their lawn, their house surrounded by the Klan of the Fiery Kross! Inspector Henderson of the Metropolis police is on the case, along with the *Daily Planet*'s two top reporters, Lois Lane and Clark Kent, but when Tommy disappears, Superman leaps into action—with help from Roberta.

Inspired by the 1940s Superman radio serial "Clan of the Fiery Cross," *New York Times* bestselling author Gene Luen Yang (*American Born Chinese, Boxers* and *Saints, The Terrifics, New Super-Man*) brings us his personal retelling of the adventures of the Lee family as they team up with Superman to smash the Klan.